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FBIS-LAT-90-066 *5 April 1990*

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Cuba

More on Reaction, Events Relating to TV Marti

ITU Official Makes Statement

PA0504043790 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Here is a statement on this station by Mr. (Herve) [not further identified], an official of the International Frequency Registration Board of the Geneva-based International Telecommunications Union [ITU], on the improper use of the frequency spectrum by the U.S. Government with the ill-named TV Marti.

[Begin (Herve) recording in French with superimposed translation into Spanish] True, we have received a complaint from the Cuban Administration. The Board received the complaint and gave an official reply that was sent to the U.S. Administration with a copy to Havana. I think the two administrations involved received the communications from the International Frequency Registration Board. We took into consideration the regulations on telecommunications, which is an international agreement connected with the international conventions on telecommunications ratified by the ITU member countries.

The regulations on radiocommunications are a set of technical, administrative, and legal guidelines that regulate the use of the frequency spectrum. We based our opinion on a clause, specifically clause No. 2666, which states that for certain frequency bands—and this case applies to the frequency used now by TV Marti—the power that is utilized must follow international regulations on local frequencies. After reviewing technical aspects and the specific aspects of the U.S. television network, we felt they conflict with Cuba's frequencies, and we gave our opinion on this. So far, we have not received any reply from the U.S. Government. This is my personal opinion. I am not speaking on behalf of the board since only the chairman is authorized to do that. [end recording]

Jamming-Team Members Interviewed

FL0504012390 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Part of the multidisciplinary team working on jamming the aggressive television signal is comprised of young combatants. [video shows four men and helicopter]

[Begin recording] [First Lieutenant Baudilio Smith] With my modest efforts, I have helped jam the signal of the aggressive television station imposed upon us against the will of our people and our youth. [passage omitted]

[First Lieutenant Manuel Rey] In this work, there is an adequate combination of expertise on the part of a group of skilled specialists from several organizations and young engineers who have worked with great enthusiasm and initiative. A collective effort has been involved in this project. We have not worked individually. A considerable number of comrades have been working on this project. All of them have contributed their support, in one way or another, to the great success of this task. [end recording]

Ecumenical Council Opposition

FL0504024490 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Members of the Cuban Ecumenical Council have offered their opinions on the anti-Cuban broadcasts.

[Begin recording] [Otinel Bermudez, International Relations Department of the Cuban Ecumenical Council] Our organization supports the statement issued by the Cuban Ecumenical Council which ratifies our peoples' feeling of unity in condemning the anti-Cuban television station which does not represent the interests and feelings of our people.

[Orestes Gonzalez, Presbyterian church pastor] It is not the most appropriate thing. It is not what we want for Cuba right now. We do not want a television station that broadcasts things to us that we really do not want to see or hear.

[Maria Luisa Puerta, Methodist] I think that, as Christians, respect for one another is a very common, basic principle of our faith. I think that we should be respected as a people. I think it is unfair that we should have to put up with what others want to impose upon us. We have our own opinions, our own ways of thinking and doing things. I think it is very valuable for us as a people to say what we think from our own platforms.

[Miguel Tamayo, priest from the Order of the Episcopal Cathedral of Havana] We have been aware of all the efforts that the Cuban Government has undertaken at all times to facilitate communications, to reunite families, and we have supported all this. This project is an attack on the heart of all those things and we oppose it because of that. It will greatly deteriorate relations between our peoples and we do not want that. We think it is unfair and that it should not be continued or supported. [end recording]

Castro Willing To Maintain Aid to Nicaragua

FL0404231690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2225 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Cuban President Fidel Castro has said he is willing to maintain his country's assistance to Cuba if the future government requests it, the BARRICADA newspaper reported today. In an article with a Havana dateline, the newspaper reports that Castro said in a news conference that the representatives of the future government of Violeta Chamorro have had no contact with Cuba.

Regarding the withdrawal of a medical contingent that worked in Nicaragua, the chief of the Cuban revolution said that this was done for security reasons, but he did not provide any further details.

Shortly after she won the 25 February elections, Nicaraguan President-elect Chamorro said that relations with Cuba and other socialist countries will be revised during her administration. Cuba was one of the countries that cooperated the most with the government of the Sandinist revolution, which will transfer power to Chamorro on 25 April.

Castro, Robaina Address Havana Youth Rally

FL0404161290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1146 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report on addresses by Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, and President Fidel Castro, at a youth rally in Havana on 4 April—recorded]

[Text] [Robaina] Comrades, a moment ago we were talking about the home run by Cuban youth, but on this occasion I prefer to now turn over the aluminum to the fourth batter on this team. We want Fidel to speak to us. Comrade Fidel, we ask you to present us with your words as a birthday gift. Tonight you have the bases full. There are no outs; there are no strikes. There are no balls because those on the other team have not been able to get one by. And Cuban youth is waiting for you to speak your home run.

[Castro] Now I understand why so late tonight they told me there was a rumor I was going to speak at midnight. Robertico [Robaina] said to me: We want you to say a few words. I said: If it is only a few words, yes. Not a speech, really. I think the speech has already been given by Robertico, and he has hit a home run with the bases filled, and he is so many runs ahead that a bunt towards third would be best. [laughter]

But alright. I think that today is a day of great importance. It is also a day young people are commemorating with the maximum spirit of struggle and combat.

[Robaina] Today while our lieutenant is presiding over the ceremony of the our April anniversary, it is worthwhile to repeat his anti-imperialist words. I expect nothing from the Americans, Maceo said, and then added: We must stake everything on our efforts. It is better to rise or fall without help rather than become indebted to such a powerful neighbor.

The revolution did not invent the Yankees. Our heroes already appreciated in all its dimensions the danger the nearness of such a dangerous and miserable neighbor represented for Cuba. Neither Marti, nor Gomez, nor Maceo could ever be standard-bearers for the imperialists against our country. The day that happens, that bronze horse will shake on its pedestal, and the bronze horseman will again take up his machete and ride through the rebellious countryside, again leading the battle against the foreign invader. [applause]

We Cuban young people feel tremendously proud of playing on the commander's team, and here we say, as Camilo [Cienfuegos] once said when in baseball the opposing team asked him to play for them, that not even in sports would he play against Fidel. Therefore, to our arrogant neighbors we say that not even in baseball can they count on a Cuban young person to play against Fidel, because this is a people of Camilos.

Now the Yankees think they will beat us. [crowd chanting indistinct] They are so ridiculous that they chose the channel 12 + 1 to transmit their signal. The Yankees are balloonists, and balloons do not interest the Cuban people or youth. They should rather devote themselves to flying kites in Florida. [applause]

Today, dear founder of the Union of Young Communists, we want to tell you simply in the language of the people, in the language of Cuban young people: I am with you Fidel, in good times and in bad. I am with you Fidel, in this "forward, forward" which has lasted more than 31 years. I am with you Fidel, in this daring that goes from the Granma to the Hermann. I am with you Fidel, in this eternal Baragua of the nation. I am with you Fidel, in rectifying what has been done badly. This is how we, the Cuban young people, respond.

Dear comrades, who are the [words indistinct] at our party? [crowd answers: The Yankees!] Who are those who have nothing to do in Cuba? [crowd answers: The Yankees!] Who will have to swallow their Channel 12 + 1? [crowd answers: The Yankees!] Who is the aggressive, insolent, and miserable Goliath? [crowd answers: The Yankees!] However, what is our slingshot? [crowd answers: David's slingshot!] What do we Cuban young people always say when we conclude revolutionary ceremonies like this one? Socialism or death! What is the name we always say with respect, admiration, and affection? [crowd answers: Fidel!] Yes, Fidel! [crowd chants: Fidel, Fidel!]

[Castro] Young comrades, there can be happiness only with dignity. There can only be joy with freedom. A slave does not know how to smile. A slave does not know what honor is. A slave does not know what dignity is. A slave does not know what respect is. A slave, if he receives anything, receives pity.

When I saw you all today, when I saw the joy tonight in this ceremony, I thought: How correct and just our line is! If there must be happiness, if there must be love, if there must be smiles, it can only be with freedom and dignity. I said to myself: I am sure that none of these young people would ever choose the road of capitulation, the road of slavery.

I thought: How many symbols are gathered together here tonight— the symbol of healthy youth, the symbol of combative youth, the symbol of unsurpassable youth. It is an exceptional time in the history of our nation, a time

of struggle, a time of firmness, a time of determination; and the symbol of Maceo is in our midst, the highest symbol of national dignity, the highest symbol of courage and honor in our wars of independence, the symbol of the most glorious event [reception interrupted] which is the protest of Baragua. [applause]

Therefore, here before the statue of Maceo, I ask: What road will we follow? The road of slavery or of freedom? [crowd answers: Freedom!] What road will we follow? The road of capitulation or of resistance? [crowd answers: Resistance!] What road will we follow, comrades, my dear young people of this revolutionary nation? The road of Zanjon or of Baragua? [crowd answers: Baragua!] [applause]

I have nothing more to say. Let us continue to enjoy the anniversary, the parties, and the joy. Our nation will be an eternal Baragua! [applause] An eternal Baragua means an eternal revolution, eternal freedom. Although we say fatherland or death, we also say we will win. [applause] Choosing the road of resistance means that not only will we be capable of resisting, but also of winning. [applause]

We are simply—and you know it, and you feel it—we are invincible. [applause] A people and a revolution that have young people like you are invincible. Therefore, let us say here before the statue of Antonio Maceo: We will be capable of following your example. We will be capable of resisting and winning. We will be capable of living up to our heroic and glorious slogans: Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Further on Address

FL0404162490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1025 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, talked for more than half an hour with the thousands of young people present in Maceo Park in Havana awaiting 4 April, a happy day and the anniversary of the Union of Young Communists and Jose Marti Pioneers Organization. The first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba told the young people about his answers to the foreign journalists who had come to Havana to participate in the news conference held on the U.S. television hostilities against Cuba. Fidel said: We Cubans prefer to die rather than not be free, I answered to some of them.

[Begin Castro recording] Only in freedom, honor, dignity, in the high goals that a human being can set for himself, can there be true joy, true happiness. I was thinking and meditating: These are our young people, and these young people are joyful. These young people are happy. These young people are, as someone said, educated. These young people are very politically aware. These young people are very revolutionarily aware.

What we want for these young people is an honorable future, a dignified future, a happy future, a joyful future, a future of freedom. What we want for all of them is the best of all imaginable worlds. We want them to be safe. We want the most one can want for people.

We do not want for these young people the rottenness of capitalism, the selfishness of capitalism, the vices of capitalism. We do not want for these young people, nor can we want it, that hateful world we have left in the past. We do not want to go back to being a dependent country. We do not want to go back to being a country with owners. We do not want to go back to being a people with masters. We do not want to follow that road, which is so dishonorable. [end recording]

The dialogue of the leader of the revolution became animated with the exchange generated spontaneously by the responses of the young people themselves.

[Begin Castro recording] Therefore, to those who are concerned, who are truly concerned and are sincerely capable of being concerned about our future, we say, and we have said: We prefer death to slavery. We will not renounce for any reason, under any circumstances, because of any difficulties, the road we have chosen. [end recording]

Castro Comments in Sao Paulo, Rio, Brasilia

FL3003213090 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Fifth of six installments of "Fidel in Brazil" series covering the Sao Paulo and Brasilia news conferences granted by Cuban President Fidel Castro and "portions" of his meeting with Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro businessmen and his remarks to scientists and workers of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation; unidentified reporters speak in Portuguese with simultaneous Spanish translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Yesterday in your speech at the Latin American Memorial auditorium, you said that when a person is invited somewhere, he should always arrive a minute before and not a minute later. Do you adhere to this philosophy when it comes to your command over the Republic of Cuba? If so, when will that perfect moment be?

[Castro] The difference is that I am not visiting Cuba. [laughter] I was born there; I live there; and I plan to die there. [applause]

[Reporter] But will you leave your position while the Cuban people are still happy with you or will you leave afterwards?

[Castro] What?

[Reporter] Will you leave your position after or before the Cuban people....

[Castro, interrupting] What would I do with this position of slavery? I would not keep it even one more day than is strictly necessary. [Pero que yo hago con este puesto de

esclavo ni un dia mas del que fuera estrictamente necesario] I think that the problem is that you should not be asking me this question. You should ask the Cuban people. You have to ask them what they think, if they want me to continue serving them, if they think that it would be useful to have me continue serving them. I am not a person that was born to a position. I am not an individual that would abandon his post. I simply see myself as a revolutionary, a soldier of the revolution, a soldier who fulfills his duty, a soldier who does not abandon his post. I especially see myself as a calm soldier because I am part of an army of millions of soldiers from the new generations that are emerging.

I think that I, just like any other man, would like to do the same kinds of things other people do. I am certain that when you finish your question, you will sit down and write a report and then you will decide where you will go tonight. You will decide if you go out with your boyfriend, your husband, if you will see your children, if you will go dancing, go for a ride or go the movies. You will decide what road to take, what bus to ride, with whom you will go, to whom you will speak and no one will stop you from doing this.

I want you to know that I do not want to [corrects himself] I can not do any of that. I ca not sit in the Malecon or walk down a street. I live a life of slavery. I think I am sustained by a sense of duty. I am sustained by a very strong motivation of a social, a political, revolutionary nature. I like to read. I like to study. I would like to write. There are many things that I would like to do. You can be certain that I would always have something to do if I did not have this job. Many times I have missed all this, but I always think about the statement made by a brilliant combatant of our youth in the twenties, Julio Antonio Mella. He said that a revolutionary's rest is the tomb. I will always be doing something until the last day, in one position or another, at one job or another. I would have to study the phenomenon of why more is expected of men who have to fulfill a task at a certain time—and I do not believe in (?providential) men—men who have founded revolutions, who have acquired a large amount of authority, great respect, great confidence among the masses.

I can tell you that I harbor no other ambition and I hope to continue fulfilling, serving my country in any post, in any post the people decide, in the post my party selects. I will serve as chief or a rank-and-file soldier until the last moment of my life. I can tell you that this is my philosophy.... [interrupted by applause] [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Good evening, Mr. President. You said that you are a man who does not want power and that you are a soldier who will not abandon his post. After 30 years, you are not a man who wants power and you are not a soldier who abandons his post. After occupying this position for 30 years, aside from what you think about direct elections in your country, aside from what you feel personally about direct elections in Cuba, would you be willing to hold a plebiscite to see what the Cuban people want?

[Castro] Well you have asked me a question which I have heard repeatedly. One of those questions is personal. I say that I am a soldier that does not leave his post. If you are asking me why I have been in this post for 30 years, I can tell you that during those 30 years, the enemies, above all the United States and the CIA, have wanted to eliminate me and have been unable to do so. That is not my fault; it is the fault of the CIA. It was unable to attain its goal. For 30 years, it has wanted to defeat the revolution of which I have been the chief, (?the leader) of that struggle. In 30 years, they have not been able to defeat the revolution and as long as the revolution is here, I will also be here. I am not completely at fault. It is the fault of the United States, which has not been able to crush the revolution. It still wants to crush us and it is possible that it will have to deal with the revolution and with me for several more years.

I have the misfortune that I have had to be in this position for 30 years but I have been fortunate that I have been victorious and my people have been fortunate that they have also been victorious in that struggle. The only other way they would have won the battle and would have crushed me [chuckles] and the revolution is if they had been successful in fulfilling the plans discussed by the U.S. Senate. They wanted to eliminate me any way they could. Sometimes the had bazookas. They had weapons that would not only kill a man, but an elephant. Sometimes they had different kinds of poisons. I like, I like, [repeats himself] I still like diving. They tried to see where they could place a pretty shell, a shell of pretty colors, that would explode when I picked it up. They tried to see what diseases I could contract at a certain time. I have been truly lucky. I have been truly lucky that they have not been successful with any of those plans.

I did not inherit power. I do not have blue blood. I am not a European prince from England, France, Belgium, Sweden. I am not a Japanese emperor. I am not the pope either. [laughter, applause] I am not a pope. The people gave me the authority. The people have defended it, sustained it. They sustain it with more than votes. They sustain it with weapons.

You asked about a plebiscite. I do not know why you do not ask others for a plebiscite. There are a lot of heads of states who are not, who have not been elected through the so-called direct vote. Others, who have never been elected, can be heads of state, but not me.

Many people talk and ask questions as if there is no constitution in Cuba. It is incredible. Look at how much we have been indoctrinated by the Yankees, their mass media publicity, and their lies. There is a constitution in our country. Many people talk as if there were no elections in our country and we have elections every two years, every two and a half years. I would invite anyone

to analyze how elections are held in our country, how many people vote—95 percent of the people vote—how candidates are selected—the people select their candidates directly—how the power of the state is constituted in our county, who they support. You do not have to be a party member to be a district delegate. Delegates come from everywhere. Nevertheless, the communists comprise over 80 percent. And you ask us if we will hold a direct vote. A plebiscite is a Yankee invention which, unfortunately, has deceived many people of good faith throughout the world. They are the ones who are leading the campaign for a plebiscite, a direct vote.

I understand that the idea of a direct vote is very strong in Brazil. That was one of the people's slogans. It was a tool that was used to get out of the previous process. I do not want to get involved in its internal problems. I understand that this is a very strong idea but I think that it is not the only electoral system.

In almost no West European country do they democratically elect the head of state through direct vote. There are other methods of holding elections. I can say the following: If the country was a laboratory, if it was a matter of testing us like a [words indistinct], if we could conduct experiments, tests on a revolution to satisfy the curiosity of someone else, to interrupt everything we are doing, we would have to invent an opposition. We would have to invent an opposition to play the game and conduct a test to satisfy certain people. If I show up in Cuba simply stating all these things, our people, who know how things are there, would think, with justification, that I had gone crazy or that, during my trip to Brazil, I had been given some mysterious fruit, reminiscent of the one in the Garden of Eden that made Adam sin, and that I had thus returned with new theories. They would say: The man burned himself out on his tour in Brazil. Look at the idea he has brought back! He is going to conduct a lab experiment!

But comrade, if the revolution did not have something to defend, like it does, if the revolution did not have the strength it has, how could it have been able to defend itself for 30 years against the most powerful empire in the world, the richest economic empire, [applause] the best armed? How would it have been possible without having a united, armed people? Our people not only have a vote. I repeat; they have weapons. I ask myself if the West Europeans would give weapons to their workers. I do not know if they would want to construct socialism, but at least they would exploit it less. At least when they organized a strike, they would not unleash the police, dogs, tear gas, or the extraterrestrial [words indistinct] against them. Sometimes you will see a picture and you do not know if they are extraterrestrials or people from the community of [word indistinct]. They have all sorts of (?masks), bombs, and water. I want you to know that in our country, that country of which you speak, which you question, tear gas has never been used, a dog has never been used against anyone, a weapon has never been used against anyone. We have the people, the masses, students, all united to the revolution. The workers, peasants, women, all the people are united to the revolution. With that crushing force alone, we can maintain order. With this overwhelming strength, not even an ant can get through. We do not need a dog that hunts ants. We have a people that will hunt any counterrevolutionary ant that will appear. The people are organized. We have an organized people who have a cause, a great cause, a role, a project to defend, an ideology, and they have weapons. [applause] I invite the other democracies to give their weapons to the people [pounds table once] to see what happens.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct].

[Castro] One more thing, comrade. There is a requirement for this.

[Reporter] Yes?

[Castro] There is a requirement for this. Everyone must have the same resources, the same means, and same conditions. [applause]

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct].

Meeting With Sao Paulo Businessmen:

[First speaker] We would like to discuss Brazilian-Cuban trade and economic exchange. We began a short time ago and we have seen significant development based on the [Meningitis B] vaccine protocol. Can we hope, imagine, that economic and trade cooperation between Brazil and Cuba will become epidemic? As a result, commander, what other possibilities would exist for cooperation with Cuba to guarantee the flow of trade that is being established between the two countries so that it does not suffer a loss at the conclusion of the vaccine protocol?

[Castro] The vaccine protocol has helped. Our enterprises are currently producing a kind of scientific explosion as the result of the work we have done for many years and because of the thousands and thousands of doctors we have working on it. We have also been introducing the spirit of a contingent, dedication to work, and we can begin to see the results in many things.

We are witnessing some of those results in the field of biotechnology. We are not only dealing with a single vaccine. We are making other types of vaccines for other diseases. We are working very hard on that. We are developing other vaccines. We already have a vaccine for type B hepatitis. And by the way, this vaccine is of a very good quality. It is better than the one produced by a U.S. company. This is a proven fact. Theirs and ours have been compared, and ours is twice as effective as theirs.

We also developed the epidermic growth factor. We do not yet know how many uses this factor can have. It can be used for skin burns, because it heals the skin faster. It can be used in the treatment of skin ulcers. And it has begun to be used in the cosmetics industry. It is used as a treatment against wrinkles and other skin problems. And let me tell you that this product has an extraordinary and enormous value. This product is a medicine.

Unfortunately burns cannot be prevented. Specific burns and certain skin problems cannot be prevented. Certain diseases can be eradicated, but unfortunately not all of them can.

We are working very hard in the medical field. For example, let us take streptokinase, which is used to interrupt the formation of a clot at the moment a heart attack takes place. It is cheaper than that other product which people say is extremely expensive. I am talking about the plasminogen activator. Ours, therefore, is a very important product. We are developing something new almost every day. We are trying to develop the nervous system growth factor. That will be a revolutionary development in medicine. This product could cure Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, cerebral lesions, traumas, and marrow injuries. We have tested the nervous system growth factor of mice in human cells and produced it. We have used many mice for this. We have seen nerve cells grow by using the mice's nervous system growth factor. We are now trying to develop the human nervous system growth factor. That will be a revolutionary development. We are also working on a medical treatment against cholesterol, which is an increasingly frequent problem. Our treatment will have amazing results. And our treatment will not have the side effects that the current treatment has. And I am not taking into account the fact that the current treatment is very expensive. Each pill costs between $50 and $60. People have to take these pills, which have worrisome side effects. Ours is in fact a reconstituent, and does not behave as a hormone. It creates the necessary conditions in each body so the body itself regulates cholesterol metabolism. Our treatment not only lowers the levels of bad cholesterol but also increases the levels of good cholesterol. It acts both ways. We could fill up the world with this treatment.

I can tell you something. Certain people have offered us up to $1 billion a year for some of our medicine. What do you think of that? We are not only working on the creation of new medical treatments, we are also working on high-technology medical equipment. We have a series of that equipment. We are also working on reagents to find an increasing number of uses for them. We are making tremendous efforts in this one field, which has an enormous market all over the world, including Brazil, but all over the world, too.

We cannot base our trade with Brazil only on what we sell to Brazil. We have told Brazilians: We will purchase from you in the amount that you purchase from us. That is what we have been doing. In other words, if one day you buy $300 million in products from us, we will buy $300 million in products from you. It is not a simple exchange of products. We simply keep the money you pay us in an account, and we then use the money to buy from you the equivalent of what you bought from us. In this way you do not spend your convertible foreign exchange. We, however, can come here and buy anything that is useful to us, even if it represents more than you buy from us. What are we going to do with the money? Save it? No, we have to invest our money in development and in the fulfillment of our population's needs, of course.

Fortunately, because of its current development, Brazil has many things that are useful to us. We are constantly exploring the market. We sometimes even buy chicken. [Words indistinct] to buy chicken. When one has to buy raw material to produce one kg of chicken, the difference between buying the raw material and buying the chicken itself is not all that significant. It is in fact safer, because the chicken is there and we do not have to use a cargo ship with special freezers, etc.

We can accommodate our resources to our various needs because the state owns the resources. The state can say: We have to purchase products from Brazil, so let us produce a bit less chicken—which we do with imported grains—and let us buy more chicken from Brazil, because the difference is not all that significant. We do that a lot.

We are already buying tires. I have already requested quotes and prices. We have already bought 10 bulldozers. I have asked Brazil to send me prices for 20 more bulldozers. In other words, you produce enough things for us to buy. And I am not only talking about what you may buy from us, but also about what others may buy from us. If we can buy something in Brazil, why should we go buy it in Europe? If we can buy something in Brazil, which is so much closer and if Brazil has competitive, good-quality products, why should we go and buy them in Europe? We buy many chemicals from Brazil. I have almost become a specialist in Brazilian products. I am constantly discovering new things. And insofar as you produce new things, we will buy more and more from you.

We are also developing the tourism industry. We get both Brazilian and Finnish tourists. After all, we collect the money that tourism leaves. If we get Brazilian tourists, we buy products from Brazil. And if we get Finnish tourists, we would probably buy products from Brazil as well. Brazil is closer to us. Why should we go all the way to Finland or to the rest of Europe to buy products? Who knows? We could even develop joint activities with Brazil. We could create mixed enterprises both in Cuba and here. If we have to create a joint Cuban-Brazilian enterprise, we could create it here too. There may be cases in which it would be suitable to create a joint Cuban-Brazilian enterprise. We have been thinking and talking about that. You Brazilians may decide to set up a joint Brazilian-Cuban enterprise in Cuba. Perhaps at a certain point you may consider it suitable to invest in tourism.

The world is obsessed with and desperate about the pollution problem. We have the privilege....[changes thought] The waste of 140,000 industries is dropped in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea. There are almost no fish there. Who is going to swim in the Mediterranean Sea?

They [not further identified] are aware of that. They are horrified about the pollution problem. Cuba has hundreds of kilometers of virgin beaches. According to moderate estimations, there is the capacity for up to 250,000 inhabitants [word indistinct] in our country. This year [figure indistinct]. In our country, there are resources for tourism in which billions of dollars can be invested. If we develop them, that is. Tourism development is one of our priorities. We are developing tourism in Cuba. We agree to have mixed touristic enterprises, but we agreed to have mixed enterprises in other fields too. But there are many instances. We might develop the necessary technology and establish an enterprise here in Brazil. I am talking about a joint enterprise. We do not want to become owners here in Brazil. We do not want to become a multinational in Brazil. We want to be partners in anything that is reasonable, useful, and suitable for our two countries.

Perhaps you may come to us and say: Here is this capital. How long will it take us to recover it? Well, the capital that our partners are investing in touristic enterprises is recovered in four years and is totally exempted from taxes for a certain number of years. Our partners' contribution is exempted from taxes. The products that are imported for the operation and maintenance of our various hotels do not incur taxes either. Rents do not incur taxes. And within at least 10 years, in 10 years, the capital that was invested almost triples. Thus, [words indistinct] our capital also triples.

So we have provided the necessary conditions and our capital also triples. Our partners' and our capital triples. Thus, we should not be sad about getting involved in this type of business. Very seldom do we find hotel employees like ours, who have completed high school and even have university educations. They are extremely well-trained employees. The first few hotels are beginning to operate now. We are very interested in seeing the first results of these enterprises. Experts who have made various estimations found that the investment will be recovered in record time. The results of these investments are guaranteed not only by the seriousness of the Cuban state but also by our common sense. [Words indistinct] the idea [words indistinct] the most foolish people in the world, if they do not respect agreements. We always respect the agreements we sign. But they [not further identified] have the capital, the market, and the experience.

It would be foolish if we did not invest in a field in which there is a partner who has the market, the technology, and the capital. Perhaps you would ask me: But if you can build a hotel, would you do it? Yes, if we could, we would build it. All the profits would go to the country. But if somebody comes and says: What a pretty hotel! And if he expresses his will to become our partner in the hotel business, we would accept his offer. In that case, we would not build the hotel on our own. Then the 10, 12, or 15 million [currency not specified] provided by our partner....[changes thought] and we have done that already, even with hotels that have already been built. In those cases, we used the 15 million [currency not specified] that we received—or if we did not receive it—the 15 million that we were going to invest in that hotel—because that capital was ours, whether it was 10, 12, or 15 million—and we invested it in the pharmaceutical industry, in the biotechnology field, or in any other field that gave us more money. Thus, if all hotels were built with the capital of a mixed enterprise, the money that we [words indistinct]....[changes thought] we could do that, but in 30 or 35 years... We do not have the experience either. We could have our partners manage our hotels for as long as necessary while we learn how to run a hotel, which is really a science. Running a hotel is not like practicing a sport. Thus, instead of investing the money in hotels we would invest it in other things. We have many more things in which to invest it. However, the pharmaceutical industry and the biotechnology field are priority fields [words indistinct].

We are conducting various programs. We are achieving important agricultural development. We are increasing our sugarcane and general food production. We produce coarse food for cattle from sugarcane. This helps us increase our milk and meat production, which has great prospects.

We are using the system of irrigation by parcels, which almost doubles the sugarcane production per hectare. We are also using the [word indistinct] system in rice fields, and it has almost doubled rice production per hectare and allows us to make better use of our land and water. We are using localized irrigation systems. We are using minijets to irrigate plantain fields to triple their yield. We are developing a series of different fields.

We have also attained a significant social development. But if we had problems resulting from the situation in Europe and we were forced to stop our development, we would halt our social development. We have reached such a high level of social development that we can afford to spend five years without building a school or a polyclinic. We can afford that. The only thing we would not halt under any circumstances is our development programs. I mean the programs we have been mentioning here.

We are educating our people. We are explaining all we have to do and our people are very well prepared mentally to face the difficulties that may arise without sacrificing our economic development, which is basically aimed at increasing food production and at producing exportable products that bring foreign exchange into the country.

Thus, I assess our future relations with Brazil very positively. These relations will not depend on the appearance of an epidemic. Trade between our countries may still increase without the existence of an epidemic because there will be other needs, perhaps many within the scientific field. We also might be increasingly interested in buying from Brazil and not from other countries. We may even start buying things here that we

usually buy in some of those East European socialist countries. Is that clear? Our trade relations with Brazil will by no means depend on the purchase of a specific product. We will purchase dozens and who knows how many more products.

From Castro's meeting with scientists at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation

Our country is currently experiencing a scientific explosion as the result of the work of thousands of researchers and experts. We have over 100 research centers. Of those 100 centers, almost 15 of them are dedicated to medical research. Our scientists are obtaining great results in all fields. These achievements are the result of scientific research and they are appearing at a moment when our country may face serious problems from all the events taking place in East Europe and from the problems that the USSR itself may experience. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are becoming basic fields in our country. Proposals and requests are raining upon Cuba from all over the world. Let me just mention that this year we will export to the Soviet Union approximately 300 million rubles in medicine and high-technology medical equipment. You can see what kind of a scientific explosion we are experiencing now.

We did not export practically any of these products in the past. We had a market similar to the Chinese market, although China cannot afford to conduct certain programs that other countries can because of its immense population. Countries in Europe and in other parts of the world with [word indistinct] a smaller population are sending us offers and requests in the scientific field.

I want you to know that [words indistinct] is a resource that appears in our country at a very difficult time, when all the problems in the Soviet Union are threatening us. Thus, we have been thinking about the ways in which we can associate with Brazilians in the development of scientific production. We have been thinking about which joint programs can be useful to you and to us. I have even proposed the establishment of joint enterprises with Brazilian technology in Cuba and of joint enterprises in Brazil with Cuban technology, and even with Cuban capital. I have suggested that we study our markets.

Every time somebody comes to propose something I tell them: Look, we have to exclude the USSR—a natural market—China, and Latin America from your proposal. We talk to them about the things we have been discussing here. We receive many, many offers. We do not really have much experience in these programs yet. We are studying possibilities and thinking about what to do. But new perspectives are opening up, and not only in the field of exchange of technologies, some of which have become a very important resource for the country-....[changes thought] We must seek ways that are beneficial and suitable for us not only from a technological, but also from an economic point of view.

Look, it is possible that as a result of this [word indistinct] even the Soviet Union....[changes thought] because everything that....[changes thought] the reagents, we are building large reagent factories. We are producing an increasing number of reagents for an increasing number of diseases. We are already applying programs that no other country is applying. Some countries have these programs, but only a few of them. Hospitals for extremely wealthy people have some of these programs. They have some of these programs. [repeats himself] For example, we can make early diagnosis of congenital defects. But our entire population benefits from these examinations. We conduct allergy tests on 100 percent of our children when they are born. We use a little piece of their umbilical cord to conduct these tests. In this way, we adopt all the necessary measures and give appropriate advice to the parents according to the degree of allergy the child has so the family can take good care of their children and prevent the allergy from turning into a disease. No country is fully applying any of these programs at present.

First, we had a capacity to produce six million, eight, [corrects himself] six million reagents. We are now producing 20 million reagents. In a few months we will be producing 40 million reagents. We already have a project to produce 200 million reagents.

We are linking research centers to industries. The biotechnology developed this [word indistinct] factory in association with [words indistinct]. Another factory developed this other thing through its link with the research center. In fact, factories must be subordinated to the research centers. Obviously, whatever deals with the processing and packing of a product, and such things of other already established industries, would go there. [sentence as heard]

We are working day and night to set up an enormous biotechnology center. I am not talking about a research center alone. I am talking about a research and production biotechnology center, whose emphasis, however, will be the production area. We will immediately start building a chemical synthesis research center and a chemical research center for the pharmaceutical industry. We have thought about these centers. We discussed their construction recently. We will start building them right away because of the need to combine biotechnology with these molecules that can and should be designed. [sentence as heard] We have now realized how important it was to devote thousands and thousands of people to do research work. Our researchers are absolutely devoted to their job. They work without time limits. The truth is that no money in the world would create the motivation with which our scientists are working in these fields at present.

Thus, I believe we must study our cooperation with Brazil departing from that point. There are cooperation prospects in many fields. I believe we will have to associate, to associate [repeats himself] to work in the production field in one way or the other. If we have an

industry that already has a product, we could say for example, let us pack it, let us do this here, let us distribute this product. In other words, we have to find ways to become partners with Brazil and with as many other Latin American countries as possible in all these fields. And there will be many other fields of cooperation. But we are talking about the scientific field right now. And our cooperation with other countries does not necessarily have to deal with the medical field. We can establish cooperation in many other areas. That is the idea we have in mind. This trip has given me the opportunity to discover these possibilities and the various ways in which we can establish cooperative relations.

To conclude, let me add something I have been stressing and explaining in detail, especially because the participants in this meeting are basically medical scientists and since we have already talked about this field. I believe Brazil can do a lot in the field of health. Brazil needs to work on that field. I learned that the Brazilian education minister wanted to talk to me. He wanted to know more about our experience in education. He is going to visit Cuba. That is another field in which Brazil can do a lot and must do a lot. I talked about this with the Brazilian president. I talked to him about my meeting with his ministers. I told him that one can do a lot with few resources in the health field. Infant mortality can be lowered to 25 [measurement not specified] by adopting basic measures. According to statistical figures, to go down from 50, 55, or 60 to 25 with a minimum of expenses is something....[changes thought] It is enough to be willing to do it. Obviously, one has to ask for the contribution of the people and the organizations. One has to request the contribution of various social organizations for any [word indistinct] campaign. With its industrial development and resources, Brazil should not have an infant mortality rate higher than 25 despite the fact that the country is large, big, and has all those problems. It should lower that rate from 25 to 20. It might be a little bit more expensive. To go below 20 entails the use of sophisticated and more expensive medicine.

We believe no citizen should be underused. Instead of having factories and organizations full of workers who in fact get in each other's way, one should educate more doctors, nurses, and teachers. [Passage indistinct]. According to our program, in the year 2000 we will have 65,000 doctors, and 10,000 of them will work abroad as part of our donation and cooperation programs with Third-World countries. We are not only thinking about our country. We are also thinking of a way in which we can help Third-World countries.

We have over 1,000 doctors now. [Words indistinct] experts and nurses. We have a Tropical Medical Institute and the people there are acquiring a great deal of experience. This is an amazing institution. It has been working in old facilities and we are completing the new ones this year. After we graduate those 65,000 doctors, we will graduate 10,000 more. The doctors' sabbatical year program, that is. In that way, [words indistinct] another concept of university education. If work productivity increases, if machines produce increasingly more [words indistinct] automation, then human resources should be used in a reasonable manner. There is no reason to have unemployed people. There is no reason to have extremely large personnel rosters either. When people say that we have too many doctors or teachers, I always tell them that.... [changes thought] We have almost 300,000 teachers and professors. We have a teacher and a professor for each 30-something Cuban citizens. At special schools, we have classrooms with one teacher for 10 students. If the school teaches a second language, it is better to have only five students in each classroom. We should never have more than 30 students in each classroom. This of course depends on the students' level, but there should be between 20 and 25 students in each class. We have teachers in reserve. The reserve teachers allow other teachers to take special improvement courses. We have 18,000 teachers in reserve.

Thus, a reasonably organized society can do a lot with relatively few resources. It is true that our system has helped us. I am not preaching it though. Far from that. God forbid! And much less will I do that during a visit to Brazil. Anyway, this is what I wanted to tell you. Thank you very much for the invitation. Thank you very much for your attention. I hope that we keep in touch and I hope that we continue our close cooperation in light of the opportunities that our two countries can offer. Thank you very much. [applause]

Meeting with Businessmen in Rio De Janeiro

Mr. Narino [not further identified] has recalled our friendship. We have been friends for 31 years. I came to Brazilia, no, not Brazilia, well of course, I went to Brazilia, I went through Brazilia, but on my way back to Cuba, like today, I went through Rio de Janeiro. It was also a short visit. I held some meetings. I talked to some people. On that occasion, I had the privilege of meeting many prominent figures. Some of them are dead now. During the current visit, I have had the pleasure of meeting with some of the people I met on that previous visit and I had the opportunity to meet with Roberto Narino.

This current visit is a scheduled visit. We planned it ahead of time. I did all I could to come here, although in Sao Paulo I was told that everything is difficult here because of the heavy traffic and all kinds of problems.

I was glad to hear Roberto Narino talk about that visit. Years have gone by since then. We are pleased, because we think we used those years well. I believe I have used these years well. For what I have seen here, I believe Roberto Narino also used these years very well. [crowd giggles] He is very healthy. He is very healthy. [repeats himself]. And his mind is admirably clear. I cannot feel all that happy about returning here after 31 years because I feel ashamed to know that when I first visited Rio de

Janeiro, I knew absolutely nothing. I knew nothing about anything. I was a newborn baby then. The worst thing of all is that I thought I knew a lot about everything. I thought I knew everything there was to know. Now I tell myself: My goodness, what could I have said during that visit to Rio de Janeiro? [Castro giggles] [crowd giggles] What could I have said during that visit when I was 32 years old.

At that time, I knew a few things about life in the mountains and about guerrilla warfare. I thought I knew things about the state, society, changes, and about the things that had to be done. I had an idea about what we wanted to do. But, I cannot say that we had either an exact or precise idea about the way in which we were going to do things. What we wanted to do was clear, but we needed all that enriching experience. And one wonders: If we had to start all over again now with the experience we have accumulated throughout these 31 years, we would undoubtedly do a much better job.

But because life gave me the privilege to live all these years and to acquire some experience in practice, in the construction of our country, in the promotion of our [words indistinct] social development, and especially in the promotion of our country's development, perhaps I can now make better use of this short visit to Rio de Janeiro than when I first came here.

[Reporter] How can we possibly develop your ideas if you visit Rio de Janeiro every 30 years? [crowd laughs]

[Castro] It is not easy for me to come here every six months. Perhaps, in the future I will have the opportunity to come more often. [Words indistinct] beginning that Brazil could invest in Cuba and we could invest here. It is not a question of investing in just any place, or investing simply to obtain profits. It is more a matter of finding new technologies. It is rather a matter of finding markets for our technology, whether the Brazilian market or some other market.

[Question indistinct]?

[Castro] Whatever. There are many things, including the biotechnology field and the pharmaceutical industry. Opening prospects in various directions [words indistinct] the country's laws. We do not have any difficulties. Sometimes when there is the technology, the market, and the capital, we become practical and say: It is right to invest here. Thus, we have many possibilities. Many more possibilities are going to surface after my meetings with you and after we study several of your proposals, because we accept the principle that [words indistinct] who in each of these fields.

[Reporter] In practice, how should we go about investing capital in Cuba?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] we have enterprises that operate as capitalist enterprises. They are in charge of creating the joint enterprises. We are willing to [word indistinct] in joint partnerships, because in addition we want to stress the need to unite. We want to prove that even a socialist country and a market-economy country can unite. I believe we are better prepared to form joint enterprises with Brazil than any other country. We do not have customs regulations. There are no customs barriers in our country. In our country you are not doing business with 500 different businessmen. You are having discussions with one single businessman, which is the Cuban state. In other words, it is not a partnership between a Cuban state enterprise and a Brazilian company. It is a partnership, a corporation, or a joint society that has nothing to do with the Cuban state. [Castro pounds table] Capital goes through direct channels. Capital invested in the tourism field does not have to go through the banks. As for the regular collection of profits, in other words, if the foreign partner takes the profits and distributes them, those profits do not have to go through the banks. [Words indistinct] amazing possibilities.

We could develop the tourist program ourselves, but it would take [words indistinct] years, in 35 years. But the thing is to develop it in 10 years. In addition, we have to think about the money that we would have to invest in that plan. We have better things in which to invest our money. [Words indistinct] we have other fields in which to invest our money such as the research field. Not even 24 hours go by between the moment we make scientific progress and the moment we order the creation of a pilot plant for that scientific progress. That is the rule here.

I have realized that the basic advantage of socialism is the opportunity it provides in planning development. We say: We are going to carry out this plan, this program, or this thing here. An example is what we are doing with the sugarcane industry. I say: This number of brigades will be assigned to this or that plantation. We are doing the same thing with rice and many other items. We say: This year we will have this many brigades; we will plant this many hectares; and we will have this much yield. [Castro pounds table] It is an advantage to be able to plan development.

If it takes 10 years for a capitalist country to implement an agricultural technique we can spread that same technology everywhere in two years. A technique such as the transportation of embryo implants [as heard] is growing. If there is a bull with exceptional qualities because of its offspring's productivity, we take it everywhere immediately. A sugarcane variety is used right after its reproduced. This includes its cultivation in the laboratory. We are using this more and more to reproduce many of these species.

The disadvantage of socialism is the rigid way in which it plans, its inability to give immediate responses to new problems and situations. This is what we are learning; we use a reserve to solve new problems and situations. We give immediate responses quickly. If something new is discovered, the decision to build the pilot plant is often made in less than 24 hours. At the same time, engineers and architects are planning the production plant using

certain bases and the results the plant gives. We plan how much it would cost us. Some of those areas have absolute priority in the use of economic resources. Therefore, we are adding the advantages of socialism to the ones capitalism has; that is, to plan and give immediate response to a new problem, a new need, a new possibility in development matters. This is the policy we are following at this time.

We can do more with Brazilian enterprises because they are Latin American enterprises, and within the unity concept, we can do more than what we would be willing to do with enterprises from other countries.

News conference in Brasilia

I also refer to the Cuba you defended for many years which is the same Cuba as always. It has not changed a bit. It has continued to be loyal to its principles. It has resisted the U.S. aggression and blockade and now, under perhaps more difficult conditions, it is preparing to continue to resist and to continue to defend socialist ideas. Therefore, we have not changed and we hope that we have not given anyone a reason to feel frustrated because of the generous support you gave us during these years. The times to come are even more difficult.

I have understood the meaning of the question and I also understand your concerns regarding the measures we took with one or two... [corrects himself] with two Soviet magazines. We truly banned their entrance into the country. I could say something more. We tolerated them for a long period of time. I am not going to give any kind of excuses or come up with hypocrisies. I have never done it and never will.

Tens of magazines come to our country from the Soviet Union. Tens of millions of Soviet magazines, all kinds of magazines, continue to arrive in our country. They all refer to the most varied subjects. We noticed from the first moment these developments taking place in the USSR began, in our opinion, that they adopted an openly antisocialist and slanderous stand. They were damaging Soviet history. Of course, we thought that two publications were at the service of the antisocialism cause. I am telling the truth.

There are all types of magazines in the world, in the capitalist world. You know it well. There are many very reactionary and counterrevolutionary magazines.

We are not allowing those magazines in our country. We are not allowing them. Many magazines are established by the CIA so that they write against the revolution, and we are not going to be idiots and facilitate the circulation in the world of poisonous publications instead of serious, truly serious, publications.

I ask myself if we are obliged to receive poisonous, antisocialist, and anti-Soviet publications just because they come from the Soviet Union. We knew we were going to be criticized and we are being criticized. We analyzed all the articles and their goals. We arrived at the conclusion that they were antisocialist and there was no reason for us to contribute to their distribution. There was something else. It was very curious. I believe that the magazines must work in the Soviet Union if they are being distributed well there. However, a great many of them were received in Cuba before they started to adopt these positions.

We were receiving 40,000 magazines a week in Cuba and 200,000 were distributed in the Soviet Union. I compared Cuba's population with that of the Soviet Union. I said, goodness, why do they not indoctrinate the Soviets? Why do they not educate them on all those matters, and want to educate us instead? I ask myself if the mass media, the use and abuse of the mass media, has not been one of the practices of reaction and imperialism in fighting progressive and revolutionary ideas?

But in the Soviet Union's case, the situation was special. We made certain mistakes. I do not feel as responsible for those mistakes because I never practiced that, but our country—because the Soviet Union was the first socialist state, because of its experiences, its great successes and great feats, which we recognized and continue recognizing, its service to humankind from the struggle against fascism up to the struggle for the liberation of the colonies; we know there would not have been liberation of colonialism and fascism would have not been defeated without the blood of millions and millions of Soviets—made the mistake of deifying everything that came from there. As I was saying, poison is now coming from the Holy Ghost. I was using a religious image. I said, there is a message from the Holy Ghost. We have deified the USSR and poisonous words come from the USSR. That poison is much more harmful because it comes from the Holy Ghost, which cannot make mistakes, which only speaks infallible truths.

We made the decision of suspending two Soviet publications. We believe this was a right thing to do. It was a defense mechanism of the revolution. Its ideology was being attacked indirectly by the Soviet Union through the seal of wisdom and infallibility. We suspended the publications. We believe we did the right thing. We have absolutely no regrets. I am sorry if we have different views on this, of having suspended those publications. There are still millions of publications coming in. If the time comes when we have to suspend all of them, if in our judgment they adopt the same poisonous position, we will do so. I have the duty of honestly telling them the decision and the cause of the decision.

The revolutionary person cannot be an idiot or a fool and cooperate with the enemy. We simply had to cut communication with the Holy Ghost and we did so. I do not know if this is an antireligious thing. [applause]

Escalona: Rights Groups To Face Harsh Penalties

FL0504031190 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Havana, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Government of Cuba will not loosen its grip and the law will be severely applied against any counterrevolutionary, a Cuban official said here today.

Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]—former prosecutor in the drug-trafficking case against General Arnaldo Ochoa, who was executed by firing squad—was referring to human-rights groups who have asked to be legally recognized in Cuba. Up to the present, Escalona added, we have been patient and moderate with the six or seven human-rights groups, but when they try to destabilize the nation, we will apply harsh sanctions in accordance with the penal code.

In a news conference, Escalona said that those organizations exist because of the role given them by international press agencies and because they paint a disastrous picture of the situation in Cuba to the foreign media. He stressed that no talks could be held with small counterrevolutionary groups, which is how he described students who asked for the legalization of humanitarian organizations, and also a political party headquartered in Miami, Florida. These groups are beginning a new stage against the revolution, Escalona added, in which they are trying to discredit us internationally.

Regarding a possible pluralistic opening, he said that this would be impossible because the Cuban political system is based on the principle of a single state party.

The ANPP president also added that a tribunal has reaffirmed the two-year prison sentence handed down to Elizardo Sanchez, president of the so-called Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commission of Cuba. Sanchez has been in prison since last year.

People's Government Considers More Sessions

FL0404234590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report from the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has said that the process of perfecting the structures and methods of the organs of the people's government will be successful in all instances. The highest representative of the Cuban government organ spoke at a news conference on the country's process of rectifying errors and negative tendencies for the purpose of socioeconomic development and the consolidation of socialist democracy.

Escalona Reguera said that the call for the Fourth PCC Congress emphasizes certain aspects because, as the document stipulates, the progress of the organs of the people's government will further allow the strengthening of the people's control over government activities, and also more convincing and efficient responses to the population's demands.

Regarding the regular sessions of the National Assembly that are scheduled twice a year, the president of the Cuban parliament said that they might be held more often. This will be considered to avoid very heavy agendas, he said.

Ricardo Cabrisas Meets With DPRK Minister

FL0304212090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban foreign trade minister, has received in Havana Chu Yong-hun, minister of the DPRK building material industry. The Cuban official, also president of the Cuban section of the Joint Cuba-DPRK Intergovernmental Commission, discussed the possibilities of expanding bilateral trade.

Havana Reports Soviet Cooperation in Electronics

FL0404175090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report by Ismael Tantau]

[Text] I have just confirmed here in Moscow that in 1990 Cuba will receive from the USSR parts and components for electronic clocks worth more than 1.4 million rubles. This news item is supplemented by another, which I will read to you right now. At the beginning of April, representatives of the (Simko) electronics factory will arrive in Cuba to conclude agreements for delivery of electronic clocks to our country. These deliveries will be worth about 1 million rubles.

* Home Repair, Consumer, Farm Loans Explained

90EM0117A Havana BOHEMIA No. 2 in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp 48-52

[Article by Amado Cordova Herrera]

[Text] At the request of BOHEMIA, the Office of the President of the People's Savings Bank decided to hold this joint round table, at which an attempt was made to deal with the principal problems of this institution, responding to the concerns, fears, and doubts of the populace. Of course, the true meaning of this group dialogue will be complemented by the opinions expressed by our readers.

In keeping with the objectives of this round table, we would like to begin with the topic of the loans extended for various housing construction activities.

[BOHEMIA] Is it true, as alleged in some municipalities of the capital, that the Bank will only grant loans for construction?

[Emilio Vazquez Fernandez] We should explain that before the General Housing Law was passed, the Bank only granted loans for the purchase of materials for the preservation and minor repairs of homes, up to a ceiling of 1,500 pesos. Now loans are also granted for home expansion, major repairs, reconstruction and remodeling, up to a ceiling of 2,500 pesos, and up to 5,000 pesos in the case of home construction.

In addition, as of this month we will begin extending loans for home repairs in multifamily buildings as well, as long as they are carried out by social minibrigades and do not exceed 2,000 pesos. The minimum in all cases is 200 pesos.

[Ileana Aguiar Correa] Now, if the repair work is contracted with a specialized construction enterprise of the People's Government, the loan may be for as much as 5,000 pesos, which includes both the materials and the labor provided by that enterprise.

[BOHEMIA] Does it include the financing of labor when people contract on their own?

[Emilio] No, labor is included in the loan only when it is contracted with the state enterprise or the social minibrigades, as stated earlier.

[BOHEMIA] But the public is now complaining that sometimes they must begin making monthly payments to pay back the loan before they are able to purchase the materials.

[Emilio] In practice it has happened that the construction materials allocations are approved before the materials are actually available. In a study that was conducted recently, it was found that the population is being charged more than 5 million pesos for materials they have not received.

For all of these reasons, in the first 3 months of this year a pilot plan will be launched in conjunction with the National Institute of Housing in Pinar del Rio, Villa Clara, and Holguin for the purpose of solving this problem. The people will be given a checkbook for payments, which they will use for their purchases. Collections will not take place until they have actually made purchases.

In addition, the National Institute of Housing will take steps to make sure the materials are allocated, taking into account existing supplies.

Once the efficiency of this new system has been proven, it will be extended to the remaining provinces before the end of this year.

[BOHEMIA] Why isn't blame assessed when, for a variety of reasons, employers do not withhold the loan payments and the workers must pay surcharges later on?

[Rolando Navarro Monteagudo] But that is provided for in the clauscs of the loan contract. It is stipulated that when the employer does not withhold the payments, the loan customer is required to go to the Agency to pay.

[Marisela] In this connection we do have a few problems, but in the first place we must make it clear that the national average of the loan collection rate is 98 percent, and in some areas it is as high as 99 percent. I don't think many banking institutions in the world achieve this high loan collection rate. This is due primarily to the efforts of employers in withholding these payments from paychecks.

It is true that sometimes there are irregularities when workers are transferred to another workplace, but this is true of both loan customers and employers. As Navarro pointed out, when the employer does not withhold the loan payment from the paycheck, the debtor who signed the loan contract has an obligation to go to the Banking Agency and make any past-due payment. When this is not done, the customer is in arrears.

[BOHEMIA] Apparently a certain amount of formalism is seen when it comes time to sign the loan contract, and this is also true of the cosigner.

[Marisela] In studies that have been done, it has been found that many cosigners do not understand the responsibility they assume when they sign. Later on, when the loan recipient does not pay for a given reason, and the cosigner has his wages garnished, he usually protests. In general, we are trying to be stricter in the granting of loans, insofar as who receives credit and under what terms. We are trying above all to emphasize the responsibility of the debtor who signs the contract and of the cosigner who assumes joint responsibility for that debt.

Early last year we began an experiment in granting personal loans in the municipalities of San Miguel del Padron and Cienfuegos. All kinds of checks were made to verify the data reported in the application. In other words, we are trying to make sure that loans are not approved mechanically as they used to be, but that they are extended only to those who are really in a position to pay them back. The Bank has an obligation to collect the money it loans out.

This program was extended to all the provinces, but not all offices, in late 1989. In 1990 its implementation will be completed, once all factors are coordinated.

[BOHEMIA] Why did the Bank discontinue loans for items with a high unit value on the parallel market?

[Marisela] It is worth noting that in our country loans to the public are regulated by law, and they are extended exclusively through our Bank. As a result, large numbers are involved, and the loans are basically intended to finance items that will contribute to a higher standard of living. On the one hand, we cannot lose sight of the fact that credit expands the population's buying power.

Therefore, this measure aims at exerting greater control over scarce goods and achieving a better balance of domestic finances.

This is not the result of a decision by the Bank, or of a reluctance to loan more money; it is a matter of the availability of goods.

[BOHEMIA] Does the employer or the Bank determine the way withholding is carried out?

[Ileana] The Bank determines the monthly payment amount in accordance with the worker's income. The employer determines whether to withhold monthly or biweekly.

[BOHEMIA] Some firms contend that the Bank imposes a date on them, and that the withholding cannot be biweekly.

[Julio Barrera Sarduy] In fact the withholding is monthly, but regardless of dates, the firms that pay biweekly can do the withholding in two parts if they wish. If they do not proceed this way, it is because of the demands of the economic apparatus.

[Ileana] That has a tremendous impact on the worker, and there are even those who want to save through fund formation but do not do so because their employer wants to withhold everything in a single biweekly pay period.

[Marisela] It is clear that there is no requirement by the Bank, Finance, or anyone else that the withholding be done in a single pay period. We must make sure this does not hamper savings.

[BOHEMIA] Are there any new plans to stimulate savings?

[Ileana] We are working intensively to improve the plans with a view to strengthening the spending habit in the population. We are particularly interested in stimulating savings by children and youths. We also want to improve the various types of savings accounts held by peasants, and the retirement savings plan, for example. In other words, when a person has 5 or 10 years left before retirement, we want to encourage him to open a savings account for that purpose, in order to make up for the decline in income he will suffer later on.

[BOHEMIA] Will this account be given any special treatment?

[Ileana] We are thinking about that, because these are active workers who are close to retirement, and they want to open their account for that purpose. Of course, the money is always readily available to the owner of the account. Nevertheless, we are looking into the possibility of giving the account-holder in these cases the option of withdrawing the funds in the same way that they were deposited; in other words, the bank transfers to him each month the same amount that he deposited in his account, without affecting his right to withdraw the funds all at once if he should so desire.

[BOHEMIA] What does the special savings account for peasants consist of?

[Marisela] We use that term to designate an account in which the peasant deposits all the money he wants, but it will remain at the branch of the National Bank of Cuba where he receives loans. He will be given a checkbook, and he can use these checks to pay for all of the inputs he needs for his crops. This is a new type of savings account for the peasant. It will be used on a selective basis rather than on a large scale, depending on the individual's relations with the National Bank of Cuba. This account will pay the same interest rate as a normal savings account. By providing this service, we hope to make the peasant's transactions more feasible.

[BOHEMIA] Do you foresee the expansion of this system, such that the population as a whole can write checks?

[Marisela] No.

[BOHEMIA] Does it violate any economic principle?

[Marisela] In general, checks are not used in savings accounts, only in checking accounts. Checking accounts are used by people who must pay for certain business commitments, and this has nothing to do with our socioeconomic situation. What we do need to study in the future is the possibility of implementing other payment mechanisms offered by banks. But for this purpose, the most important thing is to improve the banks' equipment situation, and to strengthen controls over all entities that join a credit card system.

[BOHEMIA] And what purpose do the current cashier's checks serve?

[Ileana] It is a service provided by the Bank whenever the public needs it. For example, when someone wants to transfer large amounts of money, or wants proof of payment by check rather than by cash, this instrument can be used. The Bank charges a very small fee. The individual is given a cashier's check with a nationally registered signature, and he can cash it or use that check to make payments anywhere for anything.

[BOHEMIA] Can it be used systematically?

[Ileana] Some people use it to pay alimony because they then have proof of payment.

[Barrera] There is also the telephone transfer. The customer may ask the bank to transfer X amount of money to another bank in another province and to inform the recipient of the money.

[BOHEMIA] And what about plans to improve service?

[Marisela] The Bank's fundamental activity revolves around the people's savings, as well as granting loans, making collections, and performing transactions related to the Housing Laws and some central tasks of the

country. But the main thing is saving money, which is not yet a habit among our people.

In general, we have expanded the number of agencies, mobile tellers that go to workplaces and peasant centers, and the hours of service to the public. We have achieved greater efficiency and flexibility in the payment of checks to retirees. We continue to work on plans to stimulate savings and to train the personnel, primarily young people, who work in the agencies. In addition, we are gradually computerizing our operations.

But the underlying philosophy of our work is that the populace should not be afraid to go to the bank and should be sure that they will be served quickly and efficiently. In short, the customer should not have to wait for the Bank; we should wait for the customer.

[Box, p 49] Participants

- Marisela Ferreyra de la Gandara, president of the People's Savings Bank
- Ileana Aguiar Correa, vice president
- Rolando Navarro Monteagudo, legal counsel director
- Emilio Vazquez Fernandez, personal credit director
- Julio Barrera Sarduy, organization and system director
- Arnaldo Izquierdo Armada, specialist in direction of savings
- Marta Cobas Barroetalena, provincial director of Havana
- Virginia Gonzalez Leon, chief of savings department, FOCSA [not further expanded] Agency, Vedado
- Loudy Garcia Jimenez, employee of 23 and 8 Agency

[Box, p 50]

	Cumulative as of 31 December 1988	
Purpose	Number	Amount
Television sets	1,642,015	754,287.3
Refrigerators	1,042,387	982,649.9
Air conditioners	47,469	35,885.1
Other home appliances	110,595	44,756.8
Furniture	73,738	43,182.7
Personal use	141,078	51,091.1
Automobiles	48,154	165,525.0
Auto repairs	214	168.8
Motorcycles	107,384	76,143.5
Home repairs	136,327	123,332.5
Home construction	7,902	11,702.4
Tourism	28,862	20,136.5
Victims	16,866	8,956.5
Perpetual surface rights	27,053	25,410.7
Musical instruments	1,887	1,278.4
Other loans	1,799	449.1
Refinancing	95,203	39,870.4
Totals	3,528,933	2,384,875.7

* FAR Paper on Ideology, Discipline

* Ideological Goals Outlined

90EM0118A Havana BASTION in Spanish 7 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] There is no doubt that we are witnessing a qualitatively different time that demands new and different achievements. We cannot deceive ourselves by issuing appeals and making up slogans; now more than ever, we must create political and revolutionary convictions through well-reasoned explanations, patient clarification, and complete persuasion.

The FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] seminar on this matter turned its attention to the search for such an approach in its ideological work. The heads of the commands' ideological work subsections, propagandists, directors of the schools of social science and political studies of the CEM [Military Training Centers], instructors for educational and cultural work, and other specialists gathered for 2 days at this seminar.

The report that was presented for debate stated that political-ideological work in 1989 had a positive influence on the strengthening of military discipline, increased combat readiness and training, better living conditions for personnel, and improved work with technology and weaponry.

In addition, the report stressed the importance of improving the methods and working style of the political organizations and workers, giving top priority to orientation, assistance, teaching, support, study, and research on situations, and breaking with any tradition that is not in keeping with the demands of the time, replacing bureaucratic methods with concrete efforts and collective labor.

As was so well stated in the document, work with individuals cannot be just a slogan; it must be demonstrated through respect, concern, and attention to the living conditions where the individual performs his activities. It means getting to know the individual, teaching him, educating him, and fully identifying with him.

Among the positive experiences in this regard, the tremendous results of the internationalist units in Angola, the Youth Labor Army, the engineering brigades, the youth movements, and the revitalization of emulation among commanding officers and collectives were highlighted in the report.

The speeches that were given discussed the principal guidelines of ideological work in the FAR for 1990, among which the most outstanding are activities aimed at increasing the quality of combat readiness and

training, military discipline, and regulational order, and at attaining more effective work with technology and weaponry.

A key point will be the more widespread achievement of solid political and revolutionary convictions among personnel, the affirmation of what we know about the leading role played by our Party, the unquestionable successes of socialism in Cuba, and the mastery of national and Latin American history along with the struggle against the enemy's ideology.

Ideological work, it was argued, must contribute to the observance of a conscientious attitude in the launching of initiatives, in the search for austerity and savings, rationalization and inventiveness, the development of agriculture-livestock production, and support for emulation movements.

The seminar emphasized the unquestionable need to improve ideological work. For this purpose, a series of measures is proposed with a view, above all, to increasing the timely information that is provided to personnel, both through systematic reading of the press and commentary thereon, and through the system of lectures and political continuing education.

Other measures include the strengthening of ties with the people, particularly with youths and children, expanding work with FAR personnel abroad, improving opinion analysis and reporting, developing sociological, psychological, and pedagogical research, undertaking more widespread work with military communities, and expanding the political-ideological activity of the organizations of the Party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists], broadening democracy, debate, revolutionary vigilance, and contact between the membership and the masses.

Regarding this latter point, the participants in the debate stressed that the nuclei and the grassroots committees are the center of ideological work in the small unit, and this effort can be developed effectively if the personnel are intimately familiar with the troops' problems, attentive to their concerns and opinions, and willing to explain in reasonable terms the principles of the Party's policy and the tasks that are assigned to the FAR.

Colonel Alberto Alvarino, head of the Office of Ideological Work of the Main Political Office, insisted on the importance of expanding the FAR's ties with the population, turning military units into promoters of political and cultural work in the communities, improving ways of working with the individual, and promoting change in the actions of the command organizations. In this manner, it will be possible to strengthen the bond with the soldier and ensure his sense of well-being.

He also emphasized that ideological workers must contribute to the conscientious participation of the FAR in the country's food program, supporting agriculture-livestock production for the self-sufficiency of the units, and in the incorporation of our combatants into the plans of each territory.

Similarly, he argued that the tasks derived from the application of the special period, in anticipation of possible contingencies in our foreign trade, require more intensive political-ideological work with individuals, efforts to promote savings and rationalization, and full support for the development of emulation movements for the purpose of improving efficiency.

* Unexcused Absences Viewed

90EM0118B Havana BASTION in Spanish
9 Feb 90 p 3

[Commentary by Colonel Henry Perez Martinez, chief of the Comandante Ernesto Guevara Aircraft Pilots School]

[Text] Yesterday I ordered one of our regiment chiefs to form up his unit, as I needed to hold an exchange of ideas, reflections, and exigencies with the combatants. This is because we do not regard as typical or characteristic of a revolutionary army, of an army like ours, the common disciplinary problem known as AWOL.

Since we have made some progress in this area, I could not just sit on my hands that day when I arrived at HQ and saw three absences in a row on the summary report. I asked myself: Why? What is going on? Where did we go wrong? What could be the missing link? In order to avoid having the wool pulled over our eyes, we decided to discuss right there, in the presence of everyone, the causes or reasons for this military indiscipline.

We rolled up our sleeves, as the saying goes, and set to work. But it was not colonel talking to combatant, it was Cuban talking to Cuban, Cuban revolutionary to Cuban revolutionary. And we realized that in none of the cases we discussed could the absence be excused (although absences are never excused) on the basis of unresolved problems, the mediocrity of a commanding officer, the abandonment of the individual, insensitivity, violation of rights—in short, the culprits could not give us, and what is worse, could not give their comrades in insomnia, their barracks mates who shared cold mornings with them, who shared daily life with them, any reason, any cause, any excuse that would justify their commission of such acts.

What did become clear was that neither the command of the small unit nor that of the regiment turned its back on the circumstances, and all emerged stronger from the gathering, not only in our eyes but in those of all who were present.

There was one comrade who, unable to provide any convincing excuse, cited a classic problem in this country, that of transportation. This represented a desperate attempt to justify his failing, but when we looked further into his case, the combatants themselves pointed

out that he lives only 10 km from the unit. Another comrade claimed a sick daughter, and we asked him: If you had called your commanding officer, what do you think would have happened? Lowering his eyes in shame, he replied: He would have given me leave.

Then we reached our own conclusions. Many may say, when they read this: Colonel, your problems are your own; solve them. But we are airing this because BASTION is our publication; we know that it is read by our combatants, and besides, we are not the only ones who face problems...but the person I am writing for is the soldier.

It is to you, Soldier, that I write as the old soldier that I am, because in an army like ours, with a commander in chief and a minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] like ours, we cannot conceive of absences.

When you take off your shirt in the street, even your undershirt, when you cut your sideburns shorter than normal, when you don't salute correctly, when you come late to roll call, and when...so many whens, the infractions you commit—make sure you realize inside that you are not being true to the youths with torches, the youths of "31 and onward," ...that you are not returning the loyalty shown to you by our commander in chief.

Listen, that is the conclusion reached by all of us who were present at that meeting, where we rolled up our sleeves and paid no attention to the epaulettes on them, where we discussed the problems man to man, soldier to soldier.

Additions to Castro Bandeirantes TV Interview

FL0404163790

Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 26 March carries the second part of the "Fidel in Brazil" series which consists of the interview with President Fidel Castro by reporter Maria Gabriela for the "Face to Face" program of Bandeirantes Television in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 15 March. The following additions should be added to the version published in the 30 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 2 to 16.

Page 2, column two, paragraph two, sentence one, make read: [Text] [Maria Gabriela] Commander, now that our relations have normalized, what does Cuba expect from Brazil or what can Brazil offer Cuba, and Cuba offer Brazil?

[Castro] Well, we expect from Brazil and, above all, we appreciate, its friendship and solidarity. We are encouraged by the fact that we can count on the friendship of this great country and great people whom—I cannot even say why, perhaps because we are so much alike—we consider to be like family.

[Maria Gabriela] In which ways are we alike?

[Castro] I think we are so much alike that we would have to look at our differences. Well, their personality, the Brazilians' happiness, their spontaneity, cultural aspects, the blood mixture we have. I do not know. This is what one feels when one speaks to Brazilians, when you deal with them. I feel like .... [changes thought] You are similar to the people of the Caribbean. We are mestizos.

[Maria Gabriela] We too.

[Castro] That is why. We find a lot of similarities. It is something that really catches our attention. We are also very similar to Dominicans. We and Puerto Ricans are pretty much alike. This can be because of the ethnic and cultural origin. From my point of view, all those factors make us very similar to each other. This is why there is affection between Cubans and Brazilians. I am not the only one, many people in our country feel this way.

If we were going to speak on economic and material terms, Brazil has important....(supplying additional material)

Page 6, column one, paragraph four, from sentence 14, make read: ...win an election. Is that not so? I am not saying... (clearing indistinct words)

Page 6, column two, paragraph one, sentence four, make read: The pope is not elected by direct vote in the Catholic Church. Not all priests... (deleting editorial notation)

Page 10, column one, paragraph eight, from sentence two, make read: ...come to Cuba. Many are taken to the beaches but they say: No, we want to see... (clearing indistinct words, deleting extraneous words)

Page 11, column two, paragraph three, only sentence, make read: Have not attempts even been make to link your name with that of Noriega? (clearing word)

Page 11, column two, paragraph four, sentence one, make read: Yes, of course, what do you think the United States is going to do? They are indeed... (clearing word)

Page 15, column two, paragraph three, from sentence four, make read: ...about this, because Frai Beto subjected me to... (clearing name)

Dominican Republic

State TV Grants Time to Opposition Parties

FL0404184890 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Radio-Television Dominicana has agreed to the request presented by the Central Electoral Board, which asked the state-owned station to grant air time to the opposition parties participating in the current election process.

The announcement was made by Adriano Rodriguez, general director of the state-owned television station, a few minutes after concluding a meeting with Dominican

Republic President Joaquin Balaguer at the National Palace. Rodriguez also denied statements made by the Dominican Liberation Party, PLD, that the use of the state-owned television station is limited to some parties while facilities are given to the Social Christian Reformist Party for the use of the said station.

Rodriguez stated: We have agreed to the request presented by the president of the Central Electoral Board because this organization is in charge of organizing the election process.

Haiti

Further Reportage on Continuing Hijack Situation

FL0404175990 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Mais Gate Airport in Port-au-Prince is still blocked and has been since yesterday after the attempted hijacking of an American Airlines plane by an airport security detachment soldier, Pierre Gerald. [passage omitted]

He has been giving the authorities ultimatums since yesterday morning. [passage omitted] Every time the deadline arrives, he fires off a couple of shots, apparently into the air. [passage omitted] He has not fired inside the plane. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, airport director retired General Carl Michel Nicolas, Port-au-Prince police chief Colonel Jean-Claude Duperval, U.S. ambassador to Haiti Alvin P. Adams, and American Airlines [AA] authorities continued negotiations, which have thus far yielded no results.

At approximately 1500 [on 3 April], a small AA plane landed at the airport, and another AA plane landed half an hour later. There were eight FBI agents aboard these planes. The FBI is the U.S. federal security agency. The FBI agents went directly to the area where the negotiating was going on.

The soldier remains adamant. Nevertheless, from everything we noticed at the airport, the FBI agents' mission is to capture the hijacker, who is very relaxed, very cool [preceding word in English], aboard the plane he has seized. The agents were (?allegedly) studying, together with the authorities on the scene, a plan to allow them to successfully effect a clean operation, an operation quick as lightening, to capture the hijacker without anything going wrong.

The crisis committee formed to negotiate with the hijacker is making great efforts not to endanger the hijacker's life or have the plane and the airport installations damaged. [passage omitted] The soldier has promised to blow up the plane outright if he is not given satisfaction. All airlines flying into Haiti have cancelled their flights because of this incident.

The soldier is still inside the plane, which remains grounded on the tarmac. With the aid of a scanner, we followed his entire conversation with the airport authorities and the crisis committee that has been formed. [passage omitted]

The hijacker has used three languages: French, English, and Creole. The soldier says he is not ignorant, that he has gone to school, like everyone else. He advanced as far as Quatrieme Class [third year of secondary school in the Haitian system]. He is an orphan and 20 years old, and has seven very poor brothers and sisters. Thus, he has no qualms about blowing up the plane. He would rather die than disembark the plane, if his demands are not met. [passage omitted]

He does not have any grenades, either. [passage omitted] He boarded the plane with only 64 shells and the Uzi. [passage omitted]

As we talked to you here, we contacted the airport. The situation remains the same. [passage omitted]

Foreign Help Rejected

FL0404190490

[Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole at 1300 GMT on 4 April carries a three-minute report on the hijack situation of an American Airline aircraft at Mais Gate Airport in Port-au-Prince.

The reporter states that at around midnight last night numerous soldiers from airport security were saying that "they will not accept other soldiers coming from abroad—meaning the FBI—and shooting the hijacker."

A mobile unit further reports that "it looks like some kind of action is being prepared." The mobile unit reporter continues by saying that " it looks as if they have given him guarantees that nothing will happen to him."

The reporter further explains that "the negotiators are trying to handle the matter in such a way as to avoid discontentment on the part of the soldiers and to also avoid destruction at the airport.

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1500 GMT on April 4 states in its headline newscast that "the situation at the airport has not advanced and that the hijacker is still on the plane."

Changes Announced in Haitian Armed Forces

FL0304195590 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French 3 Apr 90 No 319 p 5

[All names as published]

[Text] The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination informs the public that, by decision of the military hierarchy, the following changes have been made in the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]:

Colonel Christophe Dardompre, FADH, is appointed officer responsible for the companies of the FADH General Headquarters.

Colonel Jean-Claude Duperval, FADH, has been transferred from the position of chief of the Narcotics Service to that of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone.

Colonel Michel Louis, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the FADH Supply Center to that of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northwest.

Colonel Henri-Robert Augustin, FADH, has been transferred from the position of assistant G-2 to that of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Center.

Colonel Ulysse Francois, FADH, has been transferred from the position of staff officer [officier de service] at the FADH General Headquarters to that of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Artibonite.

Colonel Edy Louis, FADH, has been transferred from the position of chief of the Anti-Contraband Brigade to that of chief of the Narcotics Service.

Colonel Martial P. Romulus, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone to that of assistant military, naval, and air corps attache at the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Lieutenant Colonel Frantz Douby, FADH, has been transferred from the position of staff officer at FADH General Headquarters to that of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northeast.

Lieutenant Colonel Ludovic Rene, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northeast to that of assistant commanding officer of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone.

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Jean-Louis, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Center to that of staff officer at the FADH General Headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel Maxon Joseph, FADH, has been transferred from the position of staff officer at FADH General Headquarters to that of assistant commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northwest.

Lieutenant Colonel Illera Merius, FADH, has been transferred from the position of assistant commanding officer of the Military Department of the West to that of officer assigned to the Office of the Inspector General.

Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Prud'homme, FADH, has been transferred from the position of assistant commanding officer of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone to that of chief of the Legal Service at the FADH General Headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel Ramus Sainvil, FADH, is appointed chief of the General Intelligence Service [Service de Renseignements Generaux] of the FADH.

Lieutenant Colonel Dumarsais Romulus, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Artibonite to that of commanding officer of the FADH Supply Center.

Major Jean-Brunel Coby, FADH, has been transferred from the position of chief of the Legal Service at the FADH General Headquarters to that of assistant commanding officer of the Military Department of the West.

Major Lyonel D. Sylvain, FADH, has been transferred from the position of chief of the Second Bureau of the FADH General Headquarters to that of assistant chief of the General Intelligence Service of the FADH.

Major Sadrac Saintil, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northwest to that of chief of the Second Bureau of the FADH General Headquarters.

Major Augustin Charles, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the [Military] District of Jeremie to that of commanding officer of the [Military] District of Miragoane.

Captain Liener Renaud, FADH, has been transferred from the position of staff officer at the FADH Supply Center to that of commanding officer of the [Military] District of Croix des Bouquets.

Captain Barnave Jourdain, FADH, has been transferred from the position of commanding officer of the [Military] District of Miragoane to that of commanding officer of the [Military] District of Jeremie.

Captain Patrick Henri Bastien, FADH, has been transferred from the position of staff officer at the 52d Company to that of commanding officer of the said Company.

Captain Jean-Dany Pierre-Francois, FADH, has been transferred from the position of assistant chief of the Motor Vehicle Traffic Control Service to that of chief of the said Service.

Port-au-Prince, 2 April 1990.

Directorate of Information.

Gonaives Garrison Refuses New Commander

FL0504013690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [Announcer] A military delegation has left for Hinche in the upper central plateau to find a solution to the crisis at the Hinche Garrison, whose troops refuse to

accept the appointment of Henri-Robert Augustin as their new commanding officer.

Also a similar situation arose today in Gonaives. The Gonaives garrison has refused to accept Ulysse Francois as the commanding officer of the Military Department of the Artibonite.

Here is our correspondent.

[Correspondent Fegerson Legros, in Creole] The soldiers, formerly from the Dessalines Barracks, who have been stationed at the Toussaint Louverture Barracks in Gonaives for a year now, today revolted against Colonel Ulysse Francois, who used to be an officer at the National Palace.

The Toussaint Louverture Barracks soldiers have now made Col. Ulysse Francois quickly leave the barracks. They say they will not agree to have this officer lead them and that it was this man who was at the head of the clash that occurred between the National Palace soldiers and the Dessalines Barracks soldiers. [passage omitted]

Group of 12 Meets With Diplomats, Trouillot

FL0404235190 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Assembly for Concerted Action by Political Parties and Popular Organizations [also known as the Group of 12] has issued a press release in which it informs the public of its latest work sessions. In addition to its regular work sessions the Assembly says it had a meeting on 14 March at which it received the French ambassador, Dufour. The talks were about the Council of State, the rapid organization of elections, and the French Government's decision to quickly resume aid to President Trouillot.

On 14 March the Assembly also received U.S. Ambassador Alvin Adams, who announced the U.S. Government's desire to support the provisional government and to lift the economic embargo and resume its aid in an attempt to buttress the current Haitian Government. For two hours Ambassador Adams discussed with the members matters such as insecurity, holding elections in the not-too-distant future, and the technical and financial assistance the U.S. Government is envisioning giving the electoral process in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Also, on 26 March and 31 March the Assembly held two long work sessions with the representatives of the Council of State. On both occasions, the talks were on the council's activities and the problems it was encountering. The Assembly for Concerted Action and the State Council agreed to undertake common initiatives so as to find good solutions to election problems.

[Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole also carries a report at 1300 on 3 April on activity of the Group of 12. The report notes that the group's first meeting with Provisional President Trouillot since she took over the government was held on 2 April at the National Palace behind closed doors. Marc Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, and Dejean Belizaire, leader of the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November, were not present at the meeting.]

Asks President To Respect Council

FL0504012890 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Fourteen major Haitian political parties asked President Ertha Pascal Trouillot on 2 April to respect the attributions and the role of the Council of State and to set public action in motion against notorious criminals. In a letter made public on the evening of 2 April, these parties, which have come together into the Assembly for Concerted Action, also asked the president to relaunch local legal proceedings with a view to recovering all the nation's wealth that is in the hands of members of the Duvalier regimes and their collaborators. The Assembly for Concerted Action, AC, also asked the provisional president to have all public enterprises and administrations audited, so that the Supreme Office for Audits and Administrative Litigation can make a proper inspection.

Recalling the role of the State Council, AC says it feels the government is preventing the State Council from playing its important role. In support of its complaint, the AC points out that up to the present, the State Council has no means whatsoever to allow it to function. It has no headquarters, no infrastructure, and no personnel. Furthermore, the ministers were appointed without the State Council's being consulted and without its ratification.

They also reproach Mrs. Trouillot for appointing to the government administrations a number of people who are not in keeping with the desire for the change that the population is asking for.

AC says: We are seeing a number of people who are known to have embezzled funds, people who in the past mismanaged things. Yet here they are, back again at the head of the government administrations. These people are pillars of the system that the Haitian people has rejected, that it no longer wants. AC sees in this matter the threat of a return to a personal form of government, an autocratic government, the kind of government the Haitian people rose up against with great determination.

AC says it feels this is a dangerous situation, which, should it persist, could once again lead the nation to a crisis in the government. AC is aware of this, and says that it is in the interest of both the president and the AC to make the democratic process succeed in Haiti.

AC asks the president to respect the attributions of the Council of State and to take without delay appropriate concrete measures to allow the State Council to function normally.

That was 14 political parties asking Haiti's provisional president to respect the role of the State Council.

Part 2 of Aristide Interview on Juncture

FL0404165490 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Second part of interview with Father Jean Bertrand Aristide by Nancy Roc; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Roc] The last question, Father Aristide, a question that will go beyond the national scene this time: When Prosper Avril left, many people talked about a coup d'etat effected by the embassies. What do you think the objective of the Americans in particular was in helping to overthrow Avril? Second, what are the United States' ambitions regarding Haiti and this current government? Last, do you think our country might have been used by the United States as a springboard to end in the isolation of Cuba?

[Aristide] First of all, the Americans were willing to uproot Avril because they saw that in the last analysis Avril was not going to give up his seat to them, so to speak, by installing a pro-American government. They saw clearly that Avril wanted to hold onto the reins of power. So, since they want to have a government capable of Americanizing Haiti even more, they decided as of the arrival of Ambassador Adams—the loaded donkey who does not stop—to point the finger and get Avril uprooted. The Americans also realized that the different sectors of the national life had had it with Avril, that they did not want him anymore. He was too sadistic, too criminal. Thus, they took advantage of this juncture to promote, to encourage the uprooting of Avril. In my opinion, that is what we should pinpoint in thinking about the role played by the Americans in the uprooting of Avril.

Now, what are the Americans' aims regarding Haiti? Part of the answer lies in the question itself. The Americans continue to apply the Monroe Doctrine to Haiti. America for Americans; the Caribbean, the Antilles for Americans too. They want to continue the exploitation through the assembly industry. They want to continue their policy of domination regarding Haiti. The geopolitical reality shows us the Americans as the boss who gives orders through his lackeys. A government installed without American help might have the force of the people and could thus possibly resist possible future U.S. pressures. Thus, a government that does not have the people's support must be installed. There you have it. They can thus obtain slaves who will work in their factories for a mere song. They can also have Haiti as an example of people who are incompetent—incapable of leading themselves, incapable of getting a grip on themselves. One catches a glimpse of a superiority complex in this North American policy. It is still the North-South axes erected one against the other in order to hide, somewhat, the reality of the East-West axes. In this context, one can see the density of the American darkness, a darkness which we must pierce through our democratic, nationalistic struggle—without, however, making a stand against the Americans as if it were a matter of two nations at war with each other.

Yes, there is a cold war. There is a low-intensity war going on. However, it is also possible to articulate a policy of full and equal partners with the Americans. They have their aims; we have ours. They want to hold our guts always in their hands. Thus, we will be economically, politically, and culturally dependent. For our part, we reject this.

We want to be full and equal partners capable of sitting down to the table together to engage in dialogue. We have interests to offer; they themselves have interests to negotiate—but with pride, in an honest way. That is why, far from being lackeys with open arms—what we (?describe) in Creole as [switches to Creole] holding our [word indistinct] in our hands—[switches back to French] ready to play the role of political puppets, we want to stand before the Americans in the manner of Charlemagne Peralte and say to them: Your ancestors plundered us. Your ancestors colonized us. You yourselves are continuing the same process of colonization through your policy. Today, the Haitian nation, with its flag of pride, demands negotiations between fully equal partners, with a view to a policy of interdependence.

Now the third part of the question: Would the Americans have liked to isolate us regarding Cuba? Certainly. All we have to do is take a look at Nicaragua, where they were able through elections to utterly spoil Sandinist policy and favor the emergence of another government.

[Roc] I was talking about isolating Cuba, the country itself.

[Aristide] Yes, yes. I am getting there. When one looks at the Antilles, one sees in Haiti a savage dictatorship. Avril's, for example. Thus, to better isolate Cuba, the Americans (?intended) to effect a politically cosmetic change by getting rid of Avril.

The eyes of the entire world can thus more easily be focused on Cuba. In a way this is opening a channel of light toward Cuba while leaving Haiti in the shadows, even if extreme poverty continues to eat away the nation's structures. Avril makes the face of dictatorship appear in the light of day. Another government lackey to U.S. policy is necessary—a government capable of, as we say in Creole [switches to Creole] plucking out all the chicken's feathers without allowing the chicken to howl.

[Switches back to French] Thus, after Nicaragua, they want to put an end to Cuba's policy. Thus their policy in the mid-term consists of exerting economic and political pressures so as to finally, utterly spoil Castro's policy, isolate Castro still further and thereby achieve what they were able to do in Nicaragua. That is why I said in the mid-term, for they cannot do this at present. They cannot manage to do it. But it took them awhile—some

10 years or so—to overthrow Sandinism through elections. They intend to overthrow Castro too, eventually, through this policy of utter destruction, of sabotage—I think.

[Roc] Radio Metropole thanks you.

UNFD Political Party Headquarters Ransacked

FL0404225890 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] On the night of 1 April bandits broke into the headquarters of the political party called National Union of Democratic Forces [UNFD], which is headed by Attorney Lamartiniere Honorat. They trashed and looted the place. We interviewed Honorat. He is going to tell us what happened, and what he thinks about this act.

[Begin recording] [Honorat] What is going on in this country? What do they want? I find this strange. I do not think a political party's offices are easily going to be broken into by people. I do not think people would break into a place like that just to steal a radio, a few cassettes, a cash box with a small amount of cash, and a few small dossiers. I do not have anything! Maybe they wanted to see the party's letterhead, envelopes [words indistinct].

[Reporter, interrupting] That is precisely what I was going to ask you, Mr. Honorat. How do you interpret this? Do you think it was a simple break-in, or what?

[Honorat] [passage omitted] Since I am not an emotional person, at first I thought it might be just a robbery. However, then I thought: If it had been thieves, there were other things they would have taken, things they did not take. I think it could also be meant as an act of intimidation. [passage omitted] In that case, it has a political aspect.

I am not affirming that it is an act of intimidation, but it could be. The reason I say it could be meant as an act of intimidation is because for the past two weeks or so, I have been receiving phone calls, even at party headquarters, asking when we are going to vacate this place. [passage omitted] My wife has also received intimidating phone calls. She came and told me about them, and I told her: Pay no attention. It is just Haitians messing around. However, I feel this is not fair not honest. What bothers me is that the UNFD is a legally recognized, registered political party. This party has already participated in elections! [passage omitted]

What constitutes a bit of a problem is that I do not understand what this means, and I (?know of no reason for it). [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Manley: Finance Minister 'Optimistic' on Credit

FL0404174890 Bridgetown CANA in English 1709 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 4, CANA—Jamaica has passed the first quarterly net international reserves test under its new 14-month, US108 million dollar International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby credit agreement, Prime Minister Michael Manley said Tuesday [3 April].

Speaking at the opening of Expo 90, a trade fair here, Manley said that the result of the fiscal side of the fund test was not yet known, as all the calculations were not completed. However the prime minister said that the minister of finance was optimistic. Published reports here on Tuesday had alleged that Jamaica failed the March IMF test. On the matter of interest rates and credit ceilings Manley said if foreign exchange expenditures continued downwards and export earnings continued to rise, Jamaica would be in a strong position to bring down interest rates and credit ceilings when they come up for review in June this year.

Manley also announced the establishment of a special customs unit under the direction of a former army officer, Colonel Trevor Macmillan, to stamp out the nagging problem of corruption in the operations of the Customs Division.

El Salvador

Government, FMLN Sign Declaration in Geneva

'Text' of Declaration

PA0404170390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1013 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Geneva, 4 Apr (EFE)—The Salvadoran Government and representatives of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) signed in Geneva today a declaration of principles that was submitted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to develop the peace process.

The full text of the declaration is as follows:

Upon request from the Central American presidents and within the framework of the mandate of the UN Security Council, I have carried out consultations with both sides in order to agree on the format, mechanics, and pace of a process aimed at bringing within the shortest possible time a definitive end to the armed conflict in El Salvador.

I have agreed to make this effort upon request from the government and the FMLN, because I have received assurances from both sides that there is a serious desire and good will to strive toward this end through the path of negotiations.

Because of these consultations, the government and the FMLN have agreed on the points that will be listed hereafter and which are intended to make certain that the process will develop in an effective and serious manner and will promote mutual confidence through appropriate guarantees.

I feel that a scrupulous preservation of these guarantees will provide an indication of the will and ability of the parties to comply with the commitments they may undertake during the negotiation. In this sense, the government and the FMLN have pledged not to abandon the process of negotiation.

Following Perez de Cuellar's statement, the points of the agreement are listed:

1. The purpose of the process will be to end the armed conflict through the political path within the shortest possible time, to promote the country's democratization, to guarantee unlimited respect for human rights, and to reunite Salvadoran society.

The initial objective will be to reach political agreements in order to agree to bring an end to the armed confrontation as well as every action representing a violation of the rights of the civilian population, which must be verified by the United Nations, subject to approval by the UN Security Council.

Once the foregoing is achieved, the process must lead to the establishment of guarantees and conditions necessary for the reincorporation of FMLN members, within a framework of full legality, into the country's civilian, institutional, and political life.

2. The process will be carried out under the auspices of the secretary general in a continuous and uninterrupted manner.

3. In order to secure a successful conclusion of the negotiation process, the government and the FMLN accept a method that will be developed through two types of activities, which complement each other: a direct dialogue between negotiating commissions with the active participation of the secretary general or his representative, and intermediation of the secretary general or his representative between the parties. It will be ascertained that the government and the FMLN are both committed at the highest level.

The secretary general will strive to have these activities carried out in such a way that they will genuinely contribute to the success of the process. The government and the FMLN will guarantee that their negotiating commissions are fully empowered to discuss and to conclude agreements.

4. The Government and the FMLN agree that the process will be carried out under the strictest confidence. The only public information on its development will be that which the secretary general or his authorized representative may release.

5. The secretary general may, in a discretionary manner, maintain confidental contacts with governments of UN member countries or groups thereof which may contribute to the success of the process through counseling or support.

6. The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN agree that the political parties and other representative social organizations existing in El Salvador have an important role to play with regard to establishing peace.

They also recognize the need for the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN to maintain adequate and permanent mechanisms for information and consultation with said parties and social organizations of the country, and they must pledge to maintain the reservation required for a proper development of the process of dialogue.

Whenever it is deemed convenient—and by mutual agreement—the commissions may invite representatives of those parties and organizations to receive their contributions.

7. The government and the FMLN agree that it may be useful if the secretary general will maintain contacts with Salvadoran individuals and entities that may make useful contributions to their efforts.

Geneva, 4 April 1990.

Signed: On behalf of the Government: Oscar Santamaria (justice minister), Guillermo Paz Larin and Ana Cristina Sol (ambassadors), and Carlos Ernesto Mendoza (charge d'affaires in Geneva).

On behalf of the FMLN: Jorge Shafik Handal, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, and Roberto Canas (commanders) and Salvador Samayoa (member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission).

Colonel Vargas on Accord

PA0504031090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Interview with Colonel Mauricio Vargas, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, by reporter Carlos Mario; date and place not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Vargas]...part of this process saw peace closer than ever and the dialogue in its finest hour. The document just signed in Geneva by the FMLN [Farabudo Marti National Liberation Front] and the government is proving us right. The Armed Forces have issued a document to the people which is clearly defining the policy of this institution regarding the dialogue, democratization, and other serious concerns of this institution. I believe and reiterate that the dialogue and the process, made more important by the presence of such a prestigious interlocutor as Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar and an institution as the United Nations, represents the hope of the Salvadoran people that their most cherished desire for peace is about to become a reality.

[Mario] How do you feel about the utmost secrecy of the talks in reaching agreements that may lead to total peace in the country?

[Vargas] We view this as favorable. The utmost secrecy allows us to iron out all the good, bad, and ugly things while it keeps the talks from becoming politicized as this generates problems in the process. For example, information that is distorted or manipulated to reflect the interests of persons, sectors, or groups, conveys that distortion to the public. We feel that, within the framework of that utmost secrecy, having Mr. Perez de Cuellar or his representative at the United Nations provide the information constitutes another very sound and well-thought out step. This way, information is conveyed in a clear and concise manner without any sort of distortions.

[Mario] Another of the points agreed on concerns the participation of political parties in this process. It has also been said that the highest-ranking FMLN and government delegations must attend. How do you feel about this?

[Vargas] We believe there have been consultations with the country's political parties and groups. In fact, the political parties have been called to participate and to express their views. The Permanent Commission for National Dialogue also expressed its position on certain topics. I think that a more active participation with a true interest in peace constitutes another good step. This way, the majority of the Salvadoran society can participate in the decisionmaking progress.

[Mario] To conclude, Col. Vargas, what can we tell the Salvadoran people now that there is much expectation regarding the intial talks, that is, with the discussion of topics such as the cease-fire and others that will benefit the Salvadoran people?

[Vargas] I want to reiterate that the dialogue is in its finest hour. Peace grows closer every day, but we must work toward it. Achieving peace is up to each and every Salvadoran. We must not await with indifference, but must actively participate. The compliance by both sides, particularly the FMLN, must be strictly observed. These actions will certainly lead to results that will benefit the county's 5 million Salvadorans. The benefits must reach each and every Salvadoran. I really believe that we must avoid remarks which may jeopardize and harden positions at the dialogue.

However, we must stress the points that are causing conflict at the talks. Each and everyone of us must agree on and defend the talks as a process and political method, because the talks are moving along and that is where the greater outlook for peace is. I have a message of faith, hope, and sound advise for all Salvadorans: Rally our forces, resources, and capabilities around the government and the Armed Forces so that we may achieve peace for the people.

[Mario] This was Col. Vargas, giving us the first reaction to the declaration signed early this morning in Geneva between FMLN and government representatives.

UN Envoy, FMLN Leader Comment

PA0504051690 Paris AFP in Spanish 1454 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report by Ana Maria Echeverria]

[Text] Geneva, 4 Apr (AFP) — "There will be no cease-fire" in El Salvador "until some specific guarantees demanded by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, are fulfilled," Alvaro De Soto, UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar's special representative said upon signing an accord between the government and the guerrillas.

To stop the hostilities among the forces in conflict, "it is necessary to undertake a number of measures" that ensure "respect for human rights," the UN representative said in a news conference. Since November, he has been working towards resuming the talks, at Perez de Cuellar's request.

"I have met at least on six occasions in San Salvador with President Cristiani," he added.

The accord signed in Geneva represents "the end of the first stage of the peacemaking process," De Soto said. From now on, "we will discuss the subject matter and the content of the negotiations," the UN secretary general

representative added, without giving any further details. He pointed out that the process "will be confidential."

However, in a news conference after meeting with Perez de Cuellar, and before his meeting with Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria—who heads the government delegation—Commander Jorge Shafik Handal revealed that among the conditions proposed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] for a cease-fire are the "democratization of the country, the reestructuring of the Armed Forces, and judicial reforms."

"A truce has not been ruled out," in the short term, but "before, it is necessary—as the document says—to reach political agreements on the democratization," of the country and "to solve the problems that began the civil war," the head of the rebel delegation said during an interview with AFP.

"The purging of the Army, its professionalization and reduction, the modernization of the judicial system, and political agreements to reestructure the electoral system," were among the requirements proposed by members of the rebel delegation in order to "surrender their weapons and "become a political party."

Handal's statements—in which he reiterated some of the conditions proposed on countless occasions by the guerrillas in order to end the armed struggle and join the mainstream, and which have always been flatly refused by the Salvadoran Army—demonstrate the long path that lies ahead before the 10-year conflict—that has destroyed the country and left thousands dead—ends.

However, "just reaching an accord on the procedures represents an invaluable progress, especially if one bears in mind the increase in violence at the end of last year in El Salvador," De Soto said, adding that "reaching this accord was not easy."

The UN special envoy expressed optimism because for both parties to accept the participation of the "secretary general demonstrates their good faith and conviction."

"The meetings will be important because of United Nation's active participation," and "will be participated in at the highest levels," De Soto emphasized, clarifying that the delegations will separate on 4 April and meet again "soon."

De Soto did not specify the venue for the upcoming talks, but according to sources close to the two delegations, it will correspond to what the United Nations has planned.

FMLN's Handal on 'First Step'

PA0404202690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1528 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Geneva, 4 Apr (EFE)—Commander Jorge Shafik Handal said here today that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) does not seek an amnesty or pardon for its guerrillas, but rather democracy and social justice for the Salvadoran people, in its negotiations with the Salvadoran Government.

We are not asking for anything for ourselves, Handal said in Geneva. The solution to the conflict will not be the guarantees that may be given to us to return to the nation's political life, even though the government has insisted on offering us guarantees and amnesty. Our incorporation into the country's political life will take place within the framework of agreements establishing democracy in El Salvador, he noted.

Following the signing today of an agreement to open negotiations between the guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government under the auspices of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Handal said that this is the first step in a process to be continued.

The guerrilla commander regretted the fact that, except for Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, the government delegation that went to Geneva today is not the same as the negotiating commission that made the preparations for a dialogue process. The opposite was the case with that of the FMLN.

Handal told the press that the international framework and the mediation by the United Nations make it possible to hope for a serious negotiation process that will pave the way to peace, democracy, freedom, and the enforcement of human rights, and that will also enable the Salvadoran people to forge their own destiny.

Handal refused to elaborate on the contents of the negotiation, which must remain strictly confidential according to the commitment signed today. He insisted, however, that the solution is a complex one, because the conflict is not only an armed conflict but the end result of political and social causes.

The solution must arrive hand in hand with political agreements guaranteeing the establishment of real democracy in El Salvador, because for 60 years the only real power has been military power, and it has cost 150,000 lives, he stressed.

The granting of voting rights to 3 million inhabitants instead of to the 1,600,000 who are now entitled to vote, noninterference by the military in the civilian process, and the establishment of an honest and independent judicial branch will have to be written into the peace agreement, Handal said.

Top priorities for the FMLN are a reform of the judicial system; demilitarization, because El Salvador is too poor to bear the burden of a military budget; the establishment of social justice; and a solution to the land problem, which is growing worse because the incumbent government has backpedaled on the agrarian reform program.

The life of the majority of the Salvadoran population depends on the land, and the solution to the land ownership problem in a country where the people are

extremely poor and landowners are extremely rich will result in higher levels of social justice, Handal said.

The establishment of a cease-fire, which is not mentioned in the document signed today, must result, in Handal's opinion, from a political agreement to be reached as the negotiations advance.

Any support the Army may give to Alfredo Cristiani's civilian government will be noticed along the way. The same applies to the the United States and the CIA, even though there seem to be some signs that they are favorably inclined to support a negotiated solution, he added.

The subordination of the Army—including its three police corps, which must be reorganized and come to guarantee respect for sovereignty and human rights—to civilian power is fundamental, Handal said.

Handal criticized the fact that the United States has invested $4 billion in the Salvadoran war, which is the largest investment it has made in any Latin American country.

Justice Minister Expresses Confidence

PA0504052390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1710 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Geneva, 4 Apr (EFE)—The Salvadoran Government has confidence that the negotiation process with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] promoted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will lead to peace in the country.

Salvadoran Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, who heads the government delegation that traveled to Geneva to sign the commitment to begin the peace negotiations, made this statement today to EFE.

The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN agreed in Geneva to begin direct talks during the first week of May.

According to the minister, the immediate results of the process should be to establish a cease-fire, which is the people's desire.

Then, everything else can be discussed and analyzed; for example, institutional reforms, the true reality of the conflict, and searching for answers, Santamaria said.

The atmosphere is very positive at this time, and there are external and internal factors that could allow us to advance toward peace. In the past, we have worked under very difficult conditions, he added.

Santamaria rejected FMLN Commander Jorge Shafik Handal's accusations that the government delegation that traveled to Geneva was not composed entirely of members of the negotiating team that prepared the dialogue process.

Our delegation sufficiently represents the government interests, although it is not made up of all the members of the commission. The level of seriousness and representation is present to reaffirm our political will for the peace process, the Minister said.

The Salvadoran Government representative noted the special accomplishments achieved within the process of evolution of the institutional framework of the Armed Forces.

There is a subordination of the military power to the civilian power, which is in compliance with the constitutional mandate of respecting democratically elected authorities. There has been great progress made within the armed institution, which has a high level of professionalism, he asserted.

We believe the Armed Forces totally support the current government in all instances in which it has taken actions leading to the peace process, he added.

According to Santamaria, the Alfredo Cristiani Government fully exerts its authority in the country and is acting with determination in enforcing the law at all levels in which criminal actions were discovered.

If irregular groups carried out actions, such actions were outside the law and such groups must be punished, whether they are from the left or the right wing, because violence generates more violence, he said.

Santamaria maintained that the government has fulfilled the commitment to enforce the law and has initiated proceedings against citizens who have committed crimes. In the case of the assassination of the Jesuits priests, there can be no exception for those who are guilty.

The judicial process on these assassinations is at an advanced stage, according to the Justice Minister, who added that: We believe all those responsible will be punished.

We do not want any repetitions of this kind of action because it affects the institutional framework. The government has reaffirmed its determination to make those who are guilty stand trial and pay for their crimes to the fullest extent of the law, he added.

In conclusion, Minister Santamaria wanted to urge the FMLN to honor the commitments and to ask its members to totally and absolutely respect the 15 March declaration in which it announced a halt to sabotage activities against transportation, electricity, and telecommunications installations.

Only if they abide by this, will their statements be credible, the Salvadoran Minister said in conclusion.

Government, FMLN Negotiations To Begin in May

PA0504033490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Geneva, 4 Apr (EFE)—The Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) will begin their peace negotiations during the first week of May.

The announcement was made today by an official United Nation's spokesman in Geneva, at the end of the separate meetings the UN Under Secretary General Alvaro De Soto held this afternoon with the chiefs of the two delegations, Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria and commander Jorge Shafik Handal.

After having signed an agreement today to begin a dialogue with the participation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, other parties agreed to begin preparations as well as talks with De Soto to establish the procedures for the direct talks immediately.

Both meetings will be held during the first week of May in a city that has not yet been specified; San Jose, Costa Rica, Caracas, Venezuela, or Mexico City are all possibilities, according to well- informed sources.

The United Nation's offices in New York or Geneva might also be the site for these meetings.

Cristiani News Conference on Montelimar Talks

PA0404213390 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1731 GMT 4 Apr 90

[News conference by President Alfred Cristiani with local and foreign correspondents at the Presidential House in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Cristiani] Good morning to all our friends of the local and foreign press. First, I would like to give you a brief report on the meeting of Central American presidents held in Montelimar, Nicaragua. In general terms, the document signed proves that very noticeable progress has been made in the peacemaking processes in Central America. The fact that we were able to issue a document like the one we issued in Montelimar in such a short time is also proof that the number of problems in the region have decreased and that other matters, like peace and democracy in the region, are gaining importance. These will now become essential matters to be broached at the presidential summits in the future.

Specifically speaking, we expressed our support for two important agreements signed in Nicaragua. The first such agreement is the Toncontin Agreement signed between representatives of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and the Nicaraguan government-elect. According to the Toncontin Agreement, the demobilization and disarmament of the resistance must begin immediately and conclude by 25 April. We believe that this has been a very important step taken by the RN and the Nicaraguan government-elect headed by Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. It is praiseworthy that it was possible to reach such an agreement during a single meeting. We also expressed our appreciation to the Honduran Government for its help in making this agreement possible.

The second important agreement we expressed our support for is the treaty signed between the current Nicaraguan Government and the government-elect for the transfer of power to be made as smoothly as possible. We believe that it is important for the democratization of Nicaragua that the transfer of power to the government freely chosen by the Nicaraguan people be as smooth as possible.

Regarding El Salvador and Guatemala, countries where dialogues have begun, support was expressed for these efforts. One of the dialogues had not been made public at the time of the Montelimar summit. That dialogue has now been publicly and officially announced by the UN secretary general in Geneva. Support was also expressed for the agreement reached between the Guatemalan National Reconciliation Commission and the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] [words indistinct] process of reconciliation that will put an end to the conflict in Guatemala.

Likewise, the presidents reiterated their call for an end to all forms of violence that directly or indirectly affect the people and the productive sector and hinder the establishment of an appropriate environment for these processes of dialogue. Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador—because our young peasants are also being kidnapped by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberaetion Front]—have asked for the immediate release of people who are being held against their will by unconventional forces or terrorist groups.

The cooperation agreement on control of drug trafficking was also signed, and then, as a fundamental part (?of the future), beginning with the next summit, we will begin dealing with the economic and social problems in the area.

As you may have realized, the economic adjustment programs to counteract the economic and social crises in our countries have become prevalent. All countries have found themselves facing an unpostponable reality, which is to implement adjustment programs, and this document not only supports the adjustments that are sound for the future of the various countries, but it also includes two additional features. One feature is to make an effort for these adjustments to result in a better distribution of the social costs, which an economic adjustment obviously entails. Another feature is that no particular sector should bear the burden of the economic adjustments in our countries. The burden must be distributed equitably and thus become a factor allowing the whole population to understand that it is necessary to make these sacrifices now in order to enjoy a better future.

Also, to try to rid ourselves of these economic problems, it has become necessary to inject greater impetus into the

matter of regional economic integration and the regional integration of production systems. It is also necessary to make a common proposal regarding the foreign debts, which, to a lesser or greater degree, are a burden on our economies.

We also tried to make some progress with the integration of the Republic of Panama into this democratization, pacification, and development effort. We have invited Panama to join the next summit and form part of this democratization and development effort in our subregion. We hope that in the not too distant future, by the time the next summit begins, the controversy between Guatemala and Belize will have been solved and we will also be able to invite Belize to join this effort.

Gentlemen of the press, this is a brief account of the meeting held in Montelimar, Nicaragua, during these past two days. We feel that, although there was no confrontational issue of the type that sometimes makes it interesting to make reports like this, we feel that these presidential meetings have made extremely positive progress in achieving the goals which the Central American countries set out to accomplish in August 1987. Now progress can be made little by little with less confrontation and greater speed in [word indistinct] the processes in these countries.

One last comment. We understand that you have already had access to the document that was read this morning in Geneva by the UN secretary general (?in the presence) of delegations of the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN. This document is the framework under which the dialogue process will develop. Even though at this moment there is no agreement as to the place and date, I am sure it will begin during the current month of April. As you know, the novel thing about the change is that this process will not be interrupted.

We believe that if we are going to make an effort, we should do it quickly. We should find a solution to the conflict as soon as possible, so that we can have peace and tranquillity in our country. I think this is a good step forward, in which we can promote the process, no longer through periodic meetings, but rather, as the agreement states, in an uninterrupted fashion. This is all I have to say. With pleasure, we will begin the questions and answers.

[Moderator] We will begin with reporter Nancy (Forman) of the El Noticiero newscast.

[(Forman)] Mr President, will there be any changes in the membership of the next commission to negotiate with the FMLN? Could you tell us who the members of the commission will be and whether they will include a military official? Could you also tell us if this meeting is going to be private or whether the press will have access [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] Well, we are indeed going to include a member of the Armed Forces in the dialogue commission. Since it has been made official by the secretary general, I can give a few more details. The member who will officially be included in the commission is Colonel [Mauricio Ernesto] Vargas. The rest of the commission will remain practically the same. It will not necessarily be changed. We have not made a decision in this regard. We do not believe that substantial changes are necessary.

We believe that the commission that has been operating is a good one, a representative one, and it has every ability to pursue and carry out the dialogue. Proof of this, in response to your question about private meetings, is that from the time Mr. De Soto began his efforts, the government had proposed direct meetings in an attempt to reach an agreement. The FMLN rejected direct meetings and preferred this indirect mediation with Mr. De Soto coming and going between El Salvador and Mexico. However, in the end, I believe, it became evident that it is more practical and easier for there to be direct meetings. The United Nations and the FMLN finally agreed to hold the meetings in Mexico to try to resolve all those factors on which it had not been possible to reach an agreement in the drafting of the document that was read, and in Costa Rica they reached an agreement. This proves that our position of direct meetings is the most practical and the best, if we want to advance rapidly.

There have been no additional private meetings other than the last ones in Mexico. However, private meetings are a part of the dialogue process; therefore, although there will be access to information, the process will be carried out in private. At no time will this be an action against the press; instead, the fact that the press is continuously watching the parties involved—the government, the political parties, and the FMLN—each group will obviously try to impress the public, and their statements for outside consumption often complicate the process of arriving at an agreement because they take positions that they later cannot reverse because the positions were taken publicly. We believe that in order to have this done as quickly as possible, and for a peace agreement to be achieved in El Salvador as quickly as possible, we have tried to remove this aspect in this agreement. That is why the talks will be private.

On the other hand, there will be no meetings outside the process, if that is what you were thinking about. The meetings will definitely be held within the process that was agreed upon.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani] Now, after this last meeting, the only thing left to decide is the time and place for the dialogue itself. During the Montelimar meeting, the presidents said that they believed the dialogue should be held in Central America and the Montelimar Declaration states that the Central American countries have offered to host this dialogue.

Regarding the agenda: After reading the letter the FMLN sent with Daniel Ortega, we believe their agenda continues to be the same as the one they presented in Mexico

and later expanded in Costa Rica. That is basically what the FMLN has said in its letter. As far as the Salvadoran Government is concerned, we will continue to discuss the issues of disarmament and demobilization and their incorporation into normal life with every guarantee we can offer. As I said in Montelimar, we are willing to discuss all the topics the FMLN has proposed, but this does not mean that we agree with all that the FMLN proposes. Obviously, we cannot accept everything they have proposed. However, it is a beginning for reaching agreements. I said that I viewed the FMLN's letter with optimism because it includes topics that can be discussed quite easily.

[Moderator] Samuel Arias from TCS Television.

[Arias] Mr. President, we heard that the demobilization of the FMLN would be discussed during the summit. Was some specific progress made in this area or did the presidents simply express their support for the dialogue between the FMLN and the government?

[Cristiani] There is no doubt that the agreement to resume the dialogue was the one new thing about El Salvador that was discussed in Nicaragua. We have always said, and have now reiterated, that Esquipulas is [word indistinct]. However, this does not mean that this is the only agreement signed. To this agreement we must add those signed in August 1987 and during the other six summits that have been held. During the meeting in Tela, the presidents agreed on a plan for the demobilization of the FMLN, and this plan is quite similar to the one for the demobilization of the RN. I believe that agreement offers us a mechanism that can make things easier once we have reached a certain point; therefore, there was no reason to broach or discuss this matter. In the case of the RN, it was brought up but within the context of expressing support for the demobilization agreement reached by the parties involved.

[Moderator] Excuse me. Francisco Espinoza from Radio America.

[Espinoza] Mr. President, it has been said that there are powerful sectors within the Armed Forces and Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] who do not want to negotiate with the FMLN the issue of a purge of the Army. Meanwhile, Dr. Guillermo Ungo is saying that your government is being pressured to reach an agreement with the guerrillas.

[Cristiani] While I was in Venezuela, the Salvadoran Armed Forces released a communique that is self-explanatory. There is no doubt that there are people here in the country who do not agree with what the government is doing and who will never agree with what the government is doing. We are interested in our institutions and, as an institution, the Armed Forces has already expressed its opinion and it has been very clear. I believe you have heard it. They have expressed their support for the Salvador peace process and for the Salvadoran democratic process. They have also said that they are under the authority of the Salvadoran civilian government.

As for the Arena party, the situation is the same. The Arena has been supporting the dialogue process since 1 June, and we have felt no pressures of any kind from our party regarding the participation process we have been promoting. Something will have to be said regarding the statements made by Mr Ungo. The political opposition has always been unwilling to accept... [changes thought] even though they had already accepted that our government would be different.

I was referring to what was the fundamental part of our speech at the swearing-in ceremony, where we clearly stated that one of the main objectives of our government would be to seek peace, and we offered the possibility of a dialogue process to reach an agreement. Therefore, I believe that Dr. Ungo felt he had to say something to justify himself.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] from Radio Cadena YSU.

[Reporter] Good morning, Mr. President. The Catholic Church recently expressed hope that 1990 will be the year of peace in El Salvador. I would like to know your opinion in this regard. Also, a document was released at the UN headquarters in Geneva today stating that both parties will send high-level commissions to the upcoming talks. Is the Presidency still considering the possibility of not attending these meetings?

[Cristiani] [Words indistinct] the Presidency will not attend the direct meetings with the FMLN. There will be a commission that will represent the Salvadoran Government and, just as the agreement states, we are committed to this process and we are willing to continue cooperating just as we have done so far. However, we will not be among the members of the commission that will directly attend the meeting. I am sorry, what was the other part of your question?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani] Ah, well, I am really optimistic. The last time I met with you, I said it was not a great upsurge of optimism and the reason for this was that, up until now, it was difficult to predict the actions of the FMLN. I do not want to be too optimistic, but I believe that much better conditions exist today for the Salvadoran peace process to be successful. I hope that if this FMLN effort to find rational agreements leading to peace is a sincere one, then I believe that 1990 will be the year of peace. I believe this process has been designed so that if there is a will to make progress, we can do so. God willing, we hope that what the Church is saying will become a reality. Given those circumstances, I would also be optimistic.

[Moderator] (?Mariela Mengar) from Teleprensa.

[Mengar] Mr. President, over the last few days, both the Armed Forces and the Legislative Assembly have given the impression that the state of seige will not be extended. We would like to know if the executive branch will ask the Legislative Assembly for an extension of the state of seige or will it make that the decision at a cabinet meeting. If there is no extension [words indistinct] because you believe the situation is stable enough and no state of seige is needed?

[Cristiani] The government definitely sees no need to extend the state of seige.

We met with the Armed Forces High Command prior to our departure for Nicaragua, and we believe that in light of the agreement signed in Geneva today—which will be called the Geneva Agreement, although that is not really so, as it was only read there—we believe that there is not as much need now for a state of siege. Frankly, I think it would be absolutely ridiculous if the FMLN launched an offensive after signing this agreement. Before signing, there was still the possibility that it could launch an attack, and, therefore, we could not lift the state of siege altogether, though we were gradually reducing the restrictions related to the state of siege. However, now that an agreement has been signed, we do not expect an increase or an unusual intensification of the violence that, unfortunately, affects our country; therefore, the situation can be normalized. In other words, the government will not ask for an extension of the state of siege.

[Moderator] Marco Antonio Guevara of EL DIA.

[Guevara] A reduction of the armies in the Central American countries was one of the subjects to be discussed at the recent summit. Was there any agreement on this? On another subject, since the talks will be held privately, how will people know what progress is being made, and when can they expect to have the peace they have longed for?

[Cristiani] First of all, a point was approved in Montelimar that establishes 15 May as the date on which the commission must meet to discuss not necessarily a reduction of forces but an agreement for a balance of forces in Central America. It is probable that in some countries that will mean a reduction. In the particular case of Nicaragua and El Salvador, I believe that if peace is finally achieved, neither of these countries will need to have armies as large as the ones they currently have. So, these armies would have to be reduced somewhat. However, the meeting will be mainly to discuss [words indistinct] of meetings at a technical level. The results of those meetings must be reported to the Executive Commission, made up of the foreign ministers, who will propose possible agreements to be signed by the presidents at future summits.

Regarding the private meetings, the mechanism approved was that the official information will be channeled only through the UN secretary general's representative. In other words, any information on the progress made during the talks will be released by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar or by Alvaro de Soto. The idea is to avoid stating personal views to the press, which could cause problems. Sometimes journalists are very inquisitive and make us state our position, and then it can be hard to retract one's words.

I would say, Marco Antonio, that if everything goes well and the FMLN shows willingness, I see no reason why the problem cannot be solved in six months.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr. President, the various social forces in the country insist that the Armed Forces are the staunchest opponents of the dialogue process. Will the incorporation of Colonel Vargas in the government's dialogue commission prove the opposite and actually help the attainment of peace in our country?

[Cristiani] I personally believe that more than Col. Vargas' incorporation into the commission, the communique that the Armed Forces issued last week is the best expression of their position. The Armed Forces have said that they support the peace-seeking policy [words indistinct] the government since 1 June 1989 and continue to support it. Col. Vargas is participating in the commission because military issues are being discussed and because we believe it is important that he play a direct role. He has also served and has experience as an adviser to various commissions, not only ours, but those established by former President Duarte. I believe that he is the most qualified person to participate in the dialogue and that the Armed Forces have clearly stated its position in that communique.

[Moderator] Amaya of Radio Nacional.

[Amaya] [Words indistinct] talks with the FMLN?

[Cristiani] That is probable, but regretfully, they do not seem to favor that in their letter. They talk about making progress and reducing the level of violence. In this regard, we have always said that an agreement to suspend all violence would improve the possibilities of the dialogue process because we would be avoiding past mistakes, like in the past when we discovered that someone had been killed while we were meeting. This is dangerous as violence causes many casualties and affect everyone's morale.

We would accept a total suspension of violence in the shortest time possible; we are also willing to continue holding talks in an attempt to reach agreements on the various issues. We are all interested in consolidating our democratic system and I believe that all those associated with democratic institutions welcome actions that may improve them.

[Moderator] Oscar Vigil of [words indistinct].

[Vigil] Mr. President, I have two questions. The first one is which of the points mentioned in the FMLN letter can be discussed?

[Cristiani] All, all of them.

[Vigil] My second question is what will the United Nation's and church's role be in this dialogue process?

[Cristiani] The United Nation's role is obvious. Its secretary general will continue to participate actively in the meetings that will take place. He could serve as a bridge and play an active role. As for the church, I believe it will play an important role. I believe that the agreement states that all segments of our society may express their opinions and help strengthen the process. We do not doubt that the Catholic Church has always strived to achieve peace.

Although no agreement exists on this, we would not object if they continue as observers, representing the Episcopal Conference, as before. Even the presence of an OAS observer does not constitute any problem for us. However, I do not want to categorically say that, because there is no agreement on the matter.

[Moderator] Nelson Lopez of Radio Sonora.

[Lopez] Mr. President, perhaps you can provide further details about this. How does the government assess the dialogue with the armed rebels? Does it believe that with the change of government in Nicaragua the FMLN has lost support and thus is forced to continue with the armed struggle, which is the military view on the matter. This is my first question. My second question is: What is your government's true situation, considering that the death squads remain active and that U.S. aid to the country has been reduced?

[Cristiani] As for the first part of your question, we have always believed that a political process is the one that can offer a solution to the conflict as quickly as possible. Developments in East Germany, the Soviet Union, and Nicaragua have merely generated even more favorable conditions for a political solution in a shorter period of time. So, for us, this remains the way to solve the Salvadoran conflict as expeditiously as possible. What was the second question?

[Lopez] The second question has to do with your government's situation, considering that the death squads are still active in some sectors and considering the reduction of U.S. aid?

[Cristiani] First, I want to say that our government does not support any violent means, regardless of where it comes from. In this respect, we believe that all those who use violent means should stop so that we can have peace in the country. We are ready to fight violence no matter who is responsible, whether it is the FMLN or other groups. Our attitude regarding the Jesuit priests' murders constitutes a clear proof of that. We believe that the Army is not the only one responsible for the murders, as others may be involved. We are going to fight that sort of violence too. However, we hope that.... [changes thought] The biggest problem, which concerns finding a solution, has to do with diminishing, if not eliminating this sort of violence. Many things that happen are not just caused by radical elements that use violence, but by people who use violence to combat an enemy. I am referring to indiscriminate violence. That is why we think that if we reach an agreement with the FMLN, it would have a positive impact on other groups who support violence and this, in turn, will lead to an agreement with them. Obviously, those groups are not available for talks. The FMLN is available and we have agreed to begin the dialogue with the FMLN rebels.

[Lopez] [Words indistinct].

[Cristini] So far, U.S. aid has not been reduced. The total aid package to different countries was reduced. So, the reduction was not related to political problems in El Salvador. We are dealing with a normal and gradual reduction of the overall U.S. aid package because of that country's economic problems and fiscal deficit.

We receive a sizeable amount of aid so when they talk about a percentage cut, our percentage is obviously higher than in other countries, although Costa Rica has also suffered a cut as a result of that policy. This makes the need to stabilize our economy more urgent. This is a trend that has been followed to implement a reduction in the overall aid packages to various countries, especially now that the United States wants to help countries that are becoming democratic.

[Moderator] Lia Toledo Zaldiaca, UNOMASUNO.

[Toledo] Good morning. Point No. 1 of the document that was read in Geneva says that the country's democratization will be sought, and that the process must result in the FMLN's reintergration into the society. In your opinion, what specific aspects of those two topics must be discussed during the talks? The other question is, the document says that the UN secretary general will consult countries or groups of countries interested in the achievement of peace here, or which have interests in the country. In your opinion, what countries should be consulted?

[Cristiani] I obviously believe what was just said here: We must do whatever we can to continue consolidating our democratic process. A proposal or agreement with the political parties demands confirmation many times in order for it to become operational. If there is no consensus, the operational phase of the agreement will not occur. I believe that the issue of achieving our countries' democratization should be followed up and we must avail ourselves of the opportunity for progress.

The essential topics of the methodology and procedures for allowing the FMLN members' incorporation into the institutional, political, and civilian life in our country must certainly be discussed. Esquipulas has already resulted in some agreements which establish the procedures [4-second break in reception] but the peace process is also necessary, just as it is necessary to demobilize them before they join our normal activities. Chapter Three of the Tela Accords' plan for the demobilization of

irregular groups says that the government should provide the facilities to render viable their return to normal life. These topics must also be discussed.

What countries should be consulted? The one which should be mainly consulted is Cuba—that is obvious. I think that Cuba has great responsibility in the continuation and or end of the armed conflict and it should state its willingness to seek a political solution to the conflict instead of providing military aid. I believe that other countries which should be accepting some changes and if not accepting, at least supporting them, are the ones who have influence or interests in the region and in our country: The United States, EEC countries, and Latin American countries. Nevertheless, when the Central American presidents issued an appeal to the UN secretary general during the San Isidro de Coronado summit, they were specifically referring to Cuba, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] of NOTIMEX.

[Reporter] Mr. President, a local newspaper yesterday carried statements by an official of your government, who was interviewed in Montelimar but was not identified, claiming that the friendship between the Mexican Government and the FMLN could harm this country's peace process. What is your opinion on this? Also, there is much talk about the new arms route via Yucatan. Is your government investigating?

[Cristiani] First, I would like to categorically disavow any statements pertaining to our relations with Mexico. We are trying to determine whether an official did indeed make that statement, and if so, who that official is. Our government disavows any such statements. We believe that we have maintained excellent relations with Mexico. The current Mexican Government has supported several of our initiatives. We do not believe that there are any problems and disagree with the statements that an official may have made. Should we find out that an official did make that statement, that official would be immediately dismissed, because he is not authorized to comment on this issue, especially when such comments do not reflect the government's position.

As for the arms trafficking to El Salvador, we are adopting measures to block the flow of arms, ammunition, and war materiel into our country. To the extent of our capabilities, we are doing that on land, sea, and air. We recently detected a suspicious-looking foreign ship, but there was nothing there. However, this shows that we are trying to fight arms trafficking. We have no indications at this moment that arms trafficking to El Salvador is rising signicantly.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr. President, the Montelimar accord praises President Ortega for the recent elections in Nicaragua. Is the Salvadoran Government ready to hold a similar election in El Salvador?

[Cristiani] We have already held (?six) elections in our country in which the government has been transferred from the ruling to the opposition party. We will never accept a comparison or claim that our elections are inferior to Nicaragua's. As you know, the document mentions our country's registration process. Our country continues with its daily full-time chore of registering citizens. If someone has not registered, it is because he does not wish to do so and not because he has not been given an opportunity.

Many figures cited by the FMLN are whimsical. The country does not have 3 million eligible voters, that is, 3 million people over 18 years of age [words indistinct]. Also, I must point out that we recognized Daniel Ortega because for the first time Nicaragua has opened itself to elections. The 25 February election was undoubtedly a good one and this is why we recognize him. Furthermore, Ortega was courageous enough to concede defeat. We hope that the transfer of power on 25 April will take place without any problems in keeping with the process that we agreed to support in Nicaragua.

[Moderator] We will now begin with the questions in English. Bert Parker of ABC.

[Parker] Mr. President, you mentioned that an agreement might be reached within six months [words indistinct] peace process. Could you tell us [words indistinct] you said that?

[Cristiani] It is my gut feeling that, if the FMLN continues to approach this reinitiation of the dialogue process with an effort to reach an agreement, I think that within six months it will be possible to achieve an agreement that will start the process of demobilization and incorporation.

[Moderator] Daniel Landes of UPI.

[Landes] Mr. President, one of your points is the FMLN is [words indistinct] has to do with the justice system. Has anybody [words indistinct] resolution of the government [words indistinct] in El Salvador?

[Cristiani] Well, Archbishop Romero [words indistinct] I do feel that to try and [words indistinct] what our government says about the administration of justice [words indistinct] had a much better chance of [words indistinct] investigating the case and finding the culprit; although [words indistinct] and obviously right now it is very, very difficult to find evidence on a case that happened 10 years ago. We feel the case should be open and continue to be open [words indistinct] are in other countries. I think that this initiative on the part of the government and the Supreme Court of El Salvador can improve the administration of justice and structural problems that our system has been fraught with. It is quite a [word indistinct] initiative that [words indistinct] you to maybe call on the president of the Supreme Court. He can probably give you a much better and more detailed account of all the initiatives that have been taken since June of last year in order to improve the

system. [Words indistinct] that was also one of my main objectives, [words indistinct] the administration of justice in El Salvador was not a good one and that we should seek to improve [words indistinct].

[Landes] Sir, if the government [words indistinct] that would allow one [words indistinct] to testify against another [words indistinct] that applies to the case of the Jesuits?

[Cristiani] It is one of two points that we are now studying with our minister of justice. Obviously, we would like to have the opinion of the Supreme Court in that case. The other one is that we feel that it is too lenient on someone who commits fraud with government money just by giving him [words indistinct]. We think that maybe the sentence could be [words indistinct]. Could I have one more question?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] would involve the legislature of the United States?

[Cristiani] Could you repeat the question?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani] Ah, yes [words indistinct] could involve the legislature [words indistinct] no regulations for [passage indistinct] use in our country [words indistinct] because it is not constitutional. Therefore, democracy will not go ahead with a plebiscite unless someone reforms the Constitution [words indistinct].

[Moderator] Ricardo Clement.

[Clement] [Words indistinct] repeat your comments regarding the agreements signed [words indistinct]

[Cristiani] The Montelimar Declaration shows that there are lots of inroads with respect to democratization and peace in our region, and that the agreements reached [words indistinct]. The agreement that was made public today in Geneva by the UN secretary general is [words indistinct] initiation of a dialogue process between the FMLN and the Government of El Salvador. [Words indistinct] for a process that is [words indistinct] and more dynamic, we feel that it was necessary to try and reach an agreement as soon as possible [words indistinct] also a process that should be reserved and that only the secretary general or his representative is allowed to make public any information with respect to the process or possible agreement while the agreement is still in the process. We think that in general it is a process... [changes thought] a much more practical approach. Therefore, we find that if the FMLN is sincerely looking for a political solution and is willing to contribute to a solution to the conflict, we could possibly reach an agreement within the year 1990.

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President.

Cristiani Disagrees With Parts of FMLN Letter

PA0404151090 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has expressed disagreement with the letter that was sent by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to the participants in the Central American summit.

Cristiani said yesterday at the end of the first day of meetings that he disagrees with some aspects of the letter, although he admits that it has some positive elements. In particular, the president criticized the part of the rebel document asserting that the Army holds real power in the Salvadoran society and that, for this reason, enforcement of human rights is not possible.

Cristiani said he would rather not discuss details of the letter, but made it clear that it contains some elements that can be taken into consideration.

Ponce Gives News Conference on Talks

PA0404123190 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1715 GMT 3 Apr 90

["Excerpts" of news conference given by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, with unidentified reporters in San Salvador on 3 April—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is the position of the Armed Forces concerning the presidential summit in Nicaragua and the upcoming dialogue to be held in Geneva between the rebels and the government? Will the Armed Forces seek support for the dialogue and a solution to the conflict?

[Ponce] Last week the Armed Forces released a public message to the people explaining their stand and mentioning three basic points:

First, the Armed Forces support a dialogue that seeks peace in the country through mechanisms of understanding and agreement.

Second, the Armed Forces express their loyalty to the president of the Republic in these efforts and other efforts he may undertake to find the peace we all cherish in this country.

Third, we possess the moral conviction and the obedience—as ordered by the Constitution—as well as the humanistic awareness to promote and protect the human rights of all Salvadorans.

Those are the basic points included in our message to the Salvadoran people that we announced last week.

As for the presidential summit being held in Nicaragua, the Armed Forces wholeheartedly support the efforts undertaken by our government to find the mechanisms that will lead us to peace in the region. That is why the

president of the Republic has our full support in this endeavour to find peace and democracy throughout Central America.

Concerning the dialogue in Geneva, I believe that tomorrow there will be a briefing with the participation of delegates from the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] together with the UN secretary general, who will announce the mechanisms to be followed in this dialogue between the government and the FMLN.

[Reporter] What do the Armed Forces think about the eight bombs that were detonated yesterday and killed six soldiers and one civilian? What do you think about this now, since it is evident that explosives are again being used against the people?

[Ponce] We, the Armed Forces, feel that these events are carried out by the terrorists within the FMLN who do not believe dialogue is a mechanism for achieiving peace in our country. These individuals believe that violence will lead them to power.

They are completely out of context in history. They clearly announced that they would not use car bombs from now on, but they used one yesterday. This action is condemnable from every viewpoint because the members, rather the alumni, of Cetipol [Police Instruction Center] who were victims of this attack were unarmed. They were simply doing some physical exercises. It is also deplorable that a baker was killed and that a 12-year-old youth going to school was injured.

We believe that these events do not contribute at all to the creation of the appropriate atmosphere for peace in our country. This and many other acts of violence which have recently occurred contradict the image that the FMLN had previously tried to create with its decision not to continue sabotaging the public transportation and communications sectors, as well as businesses. All these actions have continued to occur. We want to believe that these actions have been carried out by terrorists who are out of the FMLN leaders' control, because, as I said, this does not help at all to create the appropriate atmosphere for peace in our country.

[Reporter] Colonel, referring to the state of siege, will the Armed Forces insist on keeping it or not? The Legislative Assembly president commented on this yesterday.

[Ponce] This is a political decision anyway, and it is adopted by the assembly—sometimes upon request from...

[Reporter, interrupting] The Defense Ministry, you said.

[Ponce] We, as an armed corps and with the intention of helping create the appropriate atmosphere for peace in our country, will make no request to extend the state of emergency and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Does this mean that the Armed Forces decided this because the situation of violence has disappeared?

[Ponce] Taking into account the fact that current violent actions might come from groups outside the control of FMLN leaders, we believe that the country's situation is not normal enough to say that there is no violence. However, as a contribution to that propitious atmosphere for the dialogue, I believe that it is advisable to lift it.

[Reporter] I have two questions: What is the Armed Forces' position regarding [words indistinct]?

[Ponce] As for the first question, you are referring to statements by the president of the republic. I believe that in due time he will have the opportunity to explain those statements. I understand that the newsman distorted his words, but the president himself will have an opportunity to make the respective clarification.

I will, however, state that according to the reports issued by the director general of the National Police as to whether at any time Colonel Benavides has left the hands of the National Police, he clearly said that at no time has Benavides done this. He is under the orders of the 4th penal judge. At no time has the 4th penal judge authorized Col. Benavides to leave the confines of the jail.

The person who made the accusations should present some evidence, such as a photograph. Otherwise, this is all mere speculation. That is a very delicate case, and speculations cast a negative image on the Armed Forces and the country itself, and even on the administration of justice in our country.

Concerning what could happen in the trial of the murder of the Jesuits, the justice authorities will determine what will be done. We will respect that decision.

Concerning your second question, since 1980 the Armed Forces have been striving to become more professional and better. Those efforts have led to the understanding that democracy is based on the respect and protection of each citizen's individual liberties. To that effect, all persons who are members of the Armed Forces and who have abused their authority in any manner are being discharged and turned over to the corresponding courts.

It is not that we are making agreements with the executive to that effect, but that this has been a conviction of the institution. It has been a moral conviction, it has been an understanding of the type of the conflict we are experiencing, and it has been an effort to strengthen the democratic process that has led the Armed Forces to separate those individuals who in one way or another are marring the prestige of the institution.

[Reporter] Will the army be reduced now that the FMLN has announced its stand?

[Ponce] Once the FMLN has disappeared as a threat to internal peace and order, we will definitely have to think

about reducing the number of troops in the Armed Forces. Once some level of internal pacification has been reached and the FMLN has shown it is willing to accept peace, the threat to internal peace and order will have disappeared.

[Reporter] How about a letter sent by the FMLN to the Central American presidents at the Managua summit in which the rebels say they do not agree that the Armed Forces should vote?

[Ponce] I do not know how the Armed Forces feel about this. On the other hand, the military wants to have more parliamentarians in the Legislative Assembly because there is a very large population in this country and very few parliamentarians.

I believe that all of these subjects will be discussed at the dialogue meeting to be held. It think it is too early to speculate or give any opinion to this effect. It might be misinterpreted and thought that we are trying to hinder the dialogue.

All members of the Armed Forces are, above all, citizens of this country. As citizens, we have our rights as provided by the constitution. I repeat, these are topics to be discussed at the dialogue, at which timely solutions should be reached.

[Reporter] Col. Ponce, do you have reports on the issue of the land pockets? How about what the Honduran Government is planning to do about the lawsuit pending at the International Court of Justice [ICJ]? Those land pockets might become Honduran territory. Do you have information on this? Is there any member of the Armed Forces in this commission to verify this situation before the ICJ issues a ruling on this topic?

[Ponce] In 1980, Honduras and El Salvador signed a peace treaty that established the borders in this manner: Seventy-seven percent of the border was clearly defined, while 23 percent was left pending to be defined. In order to settle this, it was decided that the case would be brought before the ICJ at The Hague. Whatever ruling this court gives will have to be respected by the two governments of Honduras and El Salvador. Therefore, it depends on what the ICJ decides.

The government has contacted some international lawyers. A support commission has been appointed to include Salvadoran lawyers who have some international experience and who are handling the case. I believe that a decision to this effect will be reached in 1991, and the ICJ will decide on the fate of this conflict.

[Reporter] Colonel, the State Department said it was concerned over a news conference held last week about Nicaraguan weapons being taken into El Salvador, particularly down the Yucatan Peninsula and [words indistinct] into the border. Does Salvadoran military intelligence have anything on this?

[Ponce] Since we heard the report that weapons were being brought down through the Yucatan Peninsula by land, we have been conducting the pertinent investigations to obtain an official statement from the Mexican Government. According to the Mexican Government, there is no such transshipment of weapons using the Yucatan Peninsula. Likewise, we have started some operations in the western part of the country with the same purpose, and we have not detected any illegal entry of weapons from Guatemala, which would be the logical route in this case.

Therefore, we do not have any evidence or indications that this is true. However, we will continue our efforts to verify what has been said.

[Reporter] However, it was said there was a maritime route, and that the weapons were being brought in [words indistinct] swampy area [words indistinct].

[Ponce] That is in the area of Jucuaran, south of Usulutan Department. We are conducting an operation through the entire area to detect any supply routes. We are making use of all our naval resources, we are using our Air Force units, and we are using land units to restrict any transshipment of weapons or ammunition through that area. So far, we have had some reports that some boats have been arriving in the area of [words indistinct], as well as south of Usulutan Department and La Bocana de Rio Lempa.

However, we have not been able to capture any of those boats, and that is what we are working on right now. There is, in fact, evidence that weapons have been brought in by land, probably coming from Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Do the Armed Forces have any specific stand on this presidential summit?

[Ponce] I believe the agenda had already been established, and we do not know what will be discussed within the summit. However, the topics we are interested in discussing refer specifically to what was agreed on at Tela and San Isidro de Coronado concerning the incorporation of the FMLN into the political life of Salvadoran society.

* Ponce Meets With Human Rights Representatives

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[Editorial Report] The San Salvador Spanish-language newspaper DIARIO LATINO of 2 March reports on page 6 that Rene Emilio Ponce, Chief of the Joint General Staff, will respond directly to reports of human rights violations and will provide facilities for the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission (CDHES) to carry out investigations in conflictive areas. This is according to statements by CDHES spokesperson Celia Medrano.

Medrano said the Commission obtained the committment yesterday during a 2 and ½ hour meeting with Ponce at the General Staff offices. According to Medrano, this pledge was a response to the Commission's request for free access to military barracks and

security bodies so that they would be able to investigate all cases reported to their office and carry out their work in a calm manner.

Medrano added that on many occasions military officials did not respond to Commission requests, and at other times they denied having a particular person in custody. Sometimes they acknowledged holding a person but claimed they were under investigation or being held for alleged "terrorist crimes."

Guatemala

Cerezo on Montelimar Summit Results, Panama

PA0504040090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2223 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has said that he is "deeply satisfied" with the Montelimar (Nicaragua) agreements and said that Panama might attend the next summit, which will be strictly economic.

Cerezo, who returned today from Nicaragua, and his Central American counterparts agreed during the two-day summit that the contras, who have been in Honduras, should be demobilized before 25 April, when Violeta Chamorro assumes power from Daniel Ortega.

The president explained to the media that—in addition to the "Declaration of Montelimar"—it was agreed during the summit that an economic summit would be held by midyear, after political problems had been overcome.

Cerezo said: Guatemala proposed an agenda that includes integration, the foreign debt, and economic issues, among others, and it was "fully accepted."

He said that the Central American presidents enthusiastically welcomed his proposal "because we are all clearly aware that we must undergo an economic transformation since we have now begun to consolidate peace and democracy."

Referring to Panama's participation, he said that the idea is not to leave that nation isolated, "but, before it participates, we want them to normalize their institutional and political life and begin a dialogue on how to broaden democratic and political opportunities" in that country.

Cerezo emphasized that his counterparts expect Panama to get rid of all the groups not linked to the government, referring to the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the canal area.

Meanwhile, Guatemala Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias was consulted by ACAN-EFE about the possibility of adding Panama to the economic summit and he said that it is a country somewhat isolated from Latin America.

"We believe that their economy might offer opportunities for the Guatemala economy and other Central American countries; that is why President Cerezo welcomed the proposal to invite the Panamanian Government," he said.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Honduran Support Against Contra Attacks

PA0404162590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1219 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said yesterday that never before have there been conditions like now to reach peace in Nicaragua, with 25 April having been agreed on as the latest date for the contras to demobilize. He added that Venezuela is ready to send UN blue helmets to help with disarmament and that Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has committed himself to demobilize the irregular forces in Yamales and La Mosquitia.

[Begin Ortega recording] We agreed that 25 April would be the latest date for the contras' disarmament and demobilization, both in Honduras and within Nicaraguan territory. The Honduran president promised to go to work right away so that the contras who are in Yamales and the northern area of Honduras' La Mosquitia immediately disarm. Here, all Nicaraguans must work with ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and international organizations to get the contras to disarm. I would say that never before have we had the right conditions for the contras to disarm. The contra who refuses to disarm will become completely isolated from the Nicaraguan people. He will be totally rejected by the Nicaraguan people, and that is why we also have the Army, to guarantee that the contras stop attacking the Nicaraguan people. The most reasonable thing would be for all Nicaraguans who have direct or indirect links with counterrevolutionary activities to take advantage of this time to disarm and dedicate themselves to work. As you may well imagine, the contra who does not wish to lay down his weapon becomes a very special problem that we Nicaraguans will have to face. [end recording]

President Ortega said that the agreements are a political support to the commitment to demobilize signed by the contras in Toncontin with delegates of the new government, who declared 20 April as the latest date for demobilization. Ortega added that ONUCA Chief General Agustin Quezada, as well as high-ranking OAS and UN delegates, took part in the presidential summit. Ortega, asked about the need for these organizations to take part in the contras' disarmament, said that contras can no longer play the little game of attacking and then fleeing into Honduras, because, following the contacts he has had with the chief of that country's Army General Staff, that country will close its borders.

[Begin Ortega recording] There has been contact between the chiefs of staff of the Nicaraguan and Honduran armies at this meeting. President Callejas also spoke to me on this topic, and they have said that they are really going to close the border and are placing military checkpoints all along it. Therefore, when the Sandinist People's Army repels an attack here in Nicaragua by a contra who then attempts to flee to Honduran territory, the Honduran Army will stop him. Contras should think about this very carefully, lest they believe Honduras will continue as their operational base. I want to trust what President Callejas has told me, I want to trust what the military leaders have said about the steps being taken on the Honduran border. Contras should be very clear in their minds that their little game of striking in Nicaragua and running into Honduras is over, and that the Honduran border is being closed militarily. We are ready here to develop any defensive operation that may be needed against those contra forces who refuse to disarm and demobolize. [end recording]

U.S. Warns of 'Problems' Over Ortega Appointment

PA0504031790 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2304 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The U.S. Administration has warned against Humberto Ortega's appointment. Harry Schlaudemann, U.S. ambassador for Central America, has warned Leopoldo Navarro and Roberto Ferrey that there will be problems if Violeta Chamorro's new government appoints Humberto Ortega as chief of the Army staff. Radio Corporacion had access to the information after U.S. Government representatives met on 3 April at a private dinner with the United Nation's blue helmet forces that will help with the armed rebels' demobilization.

Schlaudemann, who has met Navarro and Ferrey in Honduras to discuss the delivery of the contras' weapons, warned that there could be serious problems with financial credits, meaning that the economic loans needed by the country could be delayed. The decision to appoint Humberto Ortega as chief of the troops, at this point, could have an enormous political and economic cost.

Schlaudemann warned that there can be serious political problems, even though it is a decision of President-elect Violeta Chamorro. Political observers have interpreted Schlaudemann's warning to the new government's representatives as the official position of the U.S. Department of State, the Pentagon, and the Bush administration, all of whom are concerned about the latest turn of events in Nicaragua.

Castro Willing To Continue Aid If Requested

PA0404173990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro has stated that he withdrew his military advisers and doctors from Nicaragua because "there is no security" for them after Violeta Chamorro's electoral victory over the Sandinists. However, he added that he will continue helping this country "as long as the new government requests it."

"So far, there have been no talks with the new Nicaraguan government in this regard," Castro said in statements published by the Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA today.

On 7 March, two weeks after opposition candidate Chamorro was elected, Castro withdrew all the Cuban military advisers to the Sandinist army and the Interior Ministry, as well as the Cuban medical brigades that had been in Nicaragua throughout the 11 years of the Sandinist regime.

Cuba also suspended the yearly supply of 90 tons of petroleum and 50,000 rations of food for people on the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast.

D'Escoto Discusses Contras, Future Plans

PA0504040390 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman by unidentified reporter in Managua on 3 April—recorded]

[Text] [D'Escoto] The problem has always been the operation of an armed force that does not fit into any legal framework in Nicaragua, Honduras, or anywhere else. Moreover, the Central American governments have clearly insisted that those who have been financing and directing the contras' military and paramilitary operations should desist from this support and solely and exclusively provide economic support for the demobilization; in other words, for the voluntary repatriation and relocation in other countries or in the country of origin. That is very clear.

Moreover, the Esquipulas agreement points in the same direction and calls for immediate demobilization. In addition, we have the ruling of the International Court of Justice, which condemned the United States for continuing these activities to Nicaragua's detriment.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, it has been stated in Honduras that the U.S. Government should in some way compensate the Honduran people, who put up with the contras for 10 years. What do you think of this?

[D'Escoto] Well, I believe that it is Honduras' internal affair, but I believe it is worth consideration by its government. I think that the proposal is interesting, but I am not going to tell Honduras what it should do in defense of its legitimate interests.

[Reporter] Do you believe that this is will be over soon? After all, the Honduran people have also had to put up with this situation, and suddenly it has ended, almost by force.

[D'Escoto] The Honduran people have a reason to protest to their government, because, after all, their government cannot say that this was imposed upon it. It agreed to it.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, are you happy with the agreements reached?

[D'Escoto] Yes. This has been an important advance.

[Reporter] Will we finally have peace?

[D'Escoto] Yes, God willing. That is what our people want. It has been the objective of a daily struggle by many governments, and I believe that it will be achieved.

[Reporter] What are you going to do when President Ortega's administration turns over the government? What is the president going to do?

[D'Escoto] Well, I am going to devote myself to something that I have wanted to do for some time: a center for mediation [espiritualidad] and nonviolence. So, I am going to devote myself full-time to that project, which I think is very important.

[Reporter] What is President Ortega going to do?

[D'Escoto] Well, as you know, he is a deputy [to the National Assembly], but he has said that his alternate, who is Vice President Sergio Ramirez, will take his seat, and he will devote himself to more political activity, party activities, contacts with the people, some trips abroad, and writing.

[Reporter] Do you believe that, at any time, or in the next electoral period, he might again seek the Presidency, since he continues to be a man with charisma and great popularity, and since the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is still the primary force here in Nicaragua?

[D'Escoto] Well, obviously, that is an option. I believe that there is no doubt that President Ortega is a very popular man in Nicaragua, and he has a very important political future in this country. He is a young man, and in his short life he has achieved what was never before achieved in Nicaraguan history. The upcoming transfer of power will be the first time in Nicaraguan history that one party turns over the government to another party without a war.

[Reporter] Would you say that in time the loss could become something positive, because it would serve to show Nicaraguans that they are better off with the FSLN in the government?

[D'Escoto] This was an accidental defeat, to put it one way, which occurred in a very adverse situation, because the people were voting and at the same time, the Americans were saying: Vote for this option, and we will end the war; vote for the other option and risk a continuance of the war. Those were the conditions in which the elections were carried out. Therefore, in that regard, the elections were not all that free. They were free from the internal viewpoint, [illegible] there was actually coercion. There was coercion.

Nevertheless, we knew those were the existing conditions, and, despite this, we decided to proceed with the electoral process. We struggled first from the underground, struggling against Somozism; later we were the government, and now we will serve in the opposition. In other words, we are going to wage a revolution from the opposition. It is also very important to know how to serve as an opposition in a manner that is responsible, patriotic, and consultative instead of proceeding in the same manner as our opponents could and did proceed against us when we were in the government. We have to set an example and teach our people how to serve as an opposition that puts the nation's interests and the people's interests above all. I think that this is an important opportunity to pursue an overall plan with the purpose and objective of consolidating the recently achieved democratization of Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, during our visit here, we have seen that the UNO [National Opposition Union] presence is not noticeable, and that the FSLN is still visible. It can be seen and felt in the streets. This tends to presage a government without warmth, and some observers say that this might mean that Mrs. Violeta's government might not last very long. What do you think of this?

[D'Escoto] Well, I do not know, as I was telling you, we are willing to support and assist the new government, not only in he transition, but also in the future and in whatever way benefits he people. This government can be considered a privileged overnment in Latin America because as a result of the revolution, it s one of the few Latin American governments that is not a hostage of any army, because here we have an Army that will never participate in coup d'etat. This is the great threat, the shadow over most of the so- called democratic regimes in Latin America, which are facing the threat and the danger of a military coup d'etat.

[Reporter] Why do you rule that out?

[D'Escoto] Because this government is totally different, and it does not have an Army trained to carry out these actions.

[Reporter] Even if Mrs. Chamorro's government is run badly they could not attempt a coup?

[D'Escoto] I do not know about that. That is not the duty of [words indistinct]. What [words indistinct] would do is what happens in other parts of the world, in many parts of the world and in Latin America, where the weapons are used against the people; this does not allow men to exercise their democratic rights to disagree or eacefully protest. These are actions that the Army is supposed to [words indistinct] to defend the territorial integrity and the national sovereignty.

[Reporter] Is there not a danger of the FSLN controlling the weapons? There has been some concern in Honduras....?

[D'Escoto, interrupting]...[Words indistinct] will not impose residents through weapons. That may happen in other Central American countries, and this has obviously been a situation that has happened [words indistinct] coups d'etat in Honduras and in many other places, not just in Honduras. However, that is something that will not happen here. This Army will not launch a coup or turn on the people.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, excuse me for changing the subject. What will you do after you leave the post that you have held for the past 10 years?

[D'Escoto] I will do some research, but I will basically take time to complete the implementation of a project that has already egun, the creation of a center spirituality of [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Will you wear your religious uniform again? Will you basically concentrate on religious matters?

[D'Escoto] I believe that the struggle for peace and the struggle to help [words indistinct] establish links leading to honest and worthy relations with other states is also [words ndistinct]. I do not think I was not performing my duties as a Christian citizen [passage indistinct]. However, I always yearned for the time when I would be relieved of this resposibility to fully undertake religious duties because I think it is very important work.

[Reporter] Will you wear a cassock, because you are now wearing civilian clothes? Will you perform mass again?

[D'Escoto] I hope so. Right now, I am under suspension and I understand that the suspension will be lifted at any moment. I have fulfilled my duties. As a Jesuit I have always believed that the Eucharist is not something that takes place, but rather something hat you experience. I have always tried to experience it [words indistinct] every minute of my life by saying: This is my body, this is my blood, and it is [words indistinct].

Chamorro Supports Montelimar Declaration

PA0404172990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1223 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Montelimar Declaration, signed yesterday by the five Central American presidents, has received the solid support of Nicaraguan President-elect Dona Violeta Chamorro, who said she fully backs the agreements that demand the demobilization of the contras within a period up to 25 April.

She said that she supports the timeframe established for the disarmament of the irregular troops that threaten Nicaragua, because it agrees with the timeframe given in the Toncontin Agreement, which was signed by her government representatives, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the contra leaders. The Toncontin Agreement specifies 20 April as the latest date for the contras' demobilization. The president-elect believes the contras should demobilize to peacefully resolve the conflict and avoid further bloodshed.

After certain in-depth considerations, Dona Violeta reminded Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo that she had once loaned him a shirt, a comment which was considered one of her usual out-of-place remarks.

'Sandinist Policeman' Reportedly Attacks Station

PA0504045190 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] A Sandinist policeman driving a red Lada opened fire on Radio Corporacion, says a young boy who lives near this radio station. The 11-year-old boy said that at 2055 last night he and some other children saw a faded red Lada drive by with several policemen inside. I saw one of those policemen lying down on the car seat, and he told several of the children to stand aside, the boy explained. The policeman then pulled out an AK rifle and opened fire on the Radio Corporacion building, the child added.

There are five bullet holes in the wooden wall of the radio station building. The child said that the vehicle passed in front of the radio station. This attack confirms the threats that cowardly and fanatic persons make on a daily basis when they telephone this radio station. However, they will not frighten us, and we will continue reporting the truth to our people.

Chamorro Condemns Attack

PA0504051490 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2355 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Office of President-Elect Violeta Chamorro in Managua on 4 April]

[Text] Communique:

Nicaraguan President-Elect Violeta de Chamorro strongly condemns the criminal attack perpetrated on the night of 3 April against Radio Corporacion. These kinds of actions are against the national reconciliation process and disturb the tranquility of Nicaraguans.

Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro expresses her solidarity with Radio Corporacion personnel and its director Jose Castillo Ocejo, who from that prestigious radio station democratically guides Nicaraguan public opinion.

The Nicaraguan president-elect urges the appropriate authorities to investigate this attack against the lives of journalists, announcers, and technical and administrative employees of Radio Corporacion, because this threatens the climate of tranquility the Nicaraguan people need for national reconstruction and reconciliation.

[Issued by] The Press and Information Office of President-elect Violeta Chamorro

Panama

Further on Endara Statements on Mexico

PA0404221690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Apr 90 p 1-A

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said the Mexican Government seems to have felt more comfortable with the military dictatorship of ousted General Noriega than with the democratic government of current President Guillermo Endara. Meanwhile, reports from Mexico say the Mexican Foreign Ministry has issued a communique announcing it will request an explanation from the Panamanian president.

Referring to Endara's statements in Changuinola during his working tour of Bocas del Toro Province over the weekend, Foreign Relations Minister Julio Linares said, "Mexico has placed more obstacles before Endara in three months than before Noriega in 21 years of military governments."

During the meeting at the border, the president said the current Mexican Government "is the result of pure electoral fraud," while his government, which reportedly obtained 70 percent of the votes, "was legitimized by the people at the polls on 7 May." He also said the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI (from Mexico), and the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, which supported Noriega, "were the same things" in matters regarding electoral fraud. The PRI has been ruling since 1929, and since that date all its presidential candidates have ended up in the Presidency.

According to Endara, the Mexican Government abandoned the Panamanians "during the 21 years of dictatorship" of military regimes, and it now "comes to talk a thousand stupidities."

Linares said that it is necessary to "understand President Endara's state of mind," because most of the countries in the Group of Eight have normalized relations with Panama, while Mexico—host of the meeting of what is now called the Rio Group—insists on questioning the legitimacy of the elections that culminated with overwhelmingly indisputable results.

The foreign minister, who refused to make an official statement on the tensions that exist between Panama and Mexico because he has not yet received "a declaration or official communique" from Endara's office, described Mexico's demand that Endara prove his legitimacy as "meddling."

"First, because on 13 February 1990, the withdrawal of the U.S. troops who participated in the 20 December military action was confirmed, and second, because on 1 March, during the National Assembly's installation, Endara announced a constitutional reform bill which, if approved, would be subjected to a referendum to determine the extent to which the current governent enjoys acceptance."

The foreign minister pointed out that this makes the government "legitimate and legal," and that all of the members of the group, except Mexico, understood this.

"The government is legitimate because it accomplished at the polls what none of the governments that comprise the Group of Eight has accomplished, and legal because the justices of the Electoral Tribunal designated by Noriega's government acknowledged its victory on 27 April," Linares said.

Linares has received a series of complaints from Panama's diplomatic mission in Mexico City, whose members say that they are being excluded from the international relations that justify their presence, and that their requests to meet with the Mexican foreign minister go unanswered.

Nevertheless, Linares added, Columba Calvo, Mexico's charge d'affaires in Panama, maintains direct relations at all levels with the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, even on the telephone, and she functions exactly as she should in the absence of the ambassador, who, the Mexican diplomatic mission says, "is on vacation."

Asked if the presence at the Mexican Embassy of former National Bank manager Rafael Arosemena, who has been in the Mexican mission for approximately one month, worsens the situation, Linares said that his presence there should not increase the tension.

Minister Linares said that this situation is similar to the one that exists with the nunciature, where Asuncion Gaitan, who has been accused of serious crimes, has been granted refuge. However, this has not been a cause of tension with the Vatican, he added. The Roman Catholic Church diplomats have not only recognized Endara's Government, but also maintain respectful relations, Linares stressed.

The Mexican Government maintained close relations with the deposed military leader, who invested millions of dollars in Mexico, including buying the majority of the shares of the "Milano" pharmacological firm, which was involved in a scandal concerning the sale of medicine beyond expiration dates. That same firm was also involved in onerous contracts to supply medicines to the Panama Social Security Fund, which were granted without the necessary public auction.

When the "Milano" firm was closed by the Mexican health authorities, on pressure from U.S. authorities who intercepted the drug shipments, Noriega—who was general at the time—was mentioned as one of the persons who, according to Mexican media, had to appear before the authorities in charge of investigating the case. However, the process has been delayed and the legal outcome is still unknown.

Linares Sees 'Positive' Note in Mexican Relations

PA0404144490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said this afternoon that the Mexican Government has not taken more radical measures regarding diplomatic relations between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Linares] I think we should see something positive in all this. The positive side is that the Mexican Government has presented a protest note to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry and has not taken more radical steps. This means that the Mexican Government—like Panama—is not thinking of a break in diplomatic relations but rather wishes, as we do, to overcome the crisis in which we find ourselves for the sake of Hispano-American friendship.

[Reporter] Does this mean relations can improve in the next few days?

[Linares] I hope they can. Most probably we will be giving an adequate response tomorrow to the protest we received from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat.

[Reporter] Thank you. Mr. Foreign Minister, there is also talk that PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] sectors have said that this corresponds to a line from the United States to isolate Cuba even further. Therefore, this would also entail breaking Panama's relations with Cuba and Mexico.

[Linares] Since the PRD sectors or, better put, General Torrijos himself, was a tool of the United States of America at the time the Torrijos-Carter treaties were under discussion, they think we are all alike. The day the Torrijos-Carter treaties are freely discussed, one thing will come to light here, i.e., that Mr. Torrijos and the PRD people pursued a dual policy. One was to pretend a great nationalism before international organizations, and the other was to pursue all guidelines from the United States at a bilateral level.

That is why Torrijos himself, at the conclusion and signing of the treaties, said that the Neutrality Treaty, which is one of the two Torrijos-Carter treaties, placed us under the Pentagon's defensive umbrella and that, should it not be wisely administered by future generations, it would give rise to interventions in this country. [end recording]

'Heavily Armed Colombians' Discovered at Border

PA0504040190 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2318 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Approximately 800 heavily armed Colombians without identification documents were discovered conducting illegal activities at the border between Panama and Colombia, according to Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon.

[Begin recording] [Arias] There are Colombians without identification at the border. There are reports that they have been engaged in illegal activities. There was an attack in Puerto Obaldia, in which a national policeman was killed by some Colombian nationals. This is being investigated. The Colombian nationals have not yet been identified. It is possible that both incidents are linked. We are concerned about this and the Government and Justice Ministry will take the proper measures at the proper time.

[Reporter] Do you know what type of illegal activities they are conducting there now?

[Arias] They are probably conducting contraband-related activities. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem 'Warns' Unions of 'Government Battle Plan'

PY0404180290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Carlos Menem yesterday warned that he would strip those unions that "insist on staging constant stoppages," of their legal status and announced that strike days would be deducted from final pay.

If the unions go on with their struggles, "the government will also implement a battle plan," consisting in "energetic measures," Menem added.

Meanwhile, train services throughout the country were halted by a strike staged by three of the four railway unions. A Ferrocarriles Argentinos statement admitted that not one of the five lines was operating yesterday.

The strike—backed by the General Labour Confederation (CGT) Azopardo-branch—caused difficulties to thousands of commuters who usually travel by train. Although bus services were reinforced, they could not meet the high demand. Many people resorted to cars, causing an increase in city traffic.

The government, in turn, declared the stoppage illegal and threatened to deprive the railway unions of their legal status but the railmen defiantly called a new stoppage for 11 April.

In related news, the government will reportedly declare a state of national educational emergency by means of a decree guaranteeing the continuity of classes at primary, secondary and university levels.

This decree includes the measures necessary for starting school where classes have not yet begun—Tucuman, Salta, Santa Fe and Jujuy—and their continuity where educational activity is crippled, reliable sources said.

These measures might include the loss of legal status for teachers' organizations, the suspension of free collective wage-bargaining and the recruitment of new substitute teachers, among others.

In other developments six workers were hurt yesterday afternoon during a violent confrontation which burst out at the headquarters of the UOCRA [expansion unknown] construction workers union in the Almagro neighborhood, where supporters of rival union leaders Alejo Farias and Gerdo Martinez exchanged fisticuffs and flung objects at each other.

Finally, workers of Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] state telephone company are to launch a 24-hour national strike today, after rejecting the official warning by the Labor Ministry and disregarding Menem's statements on risking losing union status.

The railway stoppage was confirmed at midnight 2 April, just before it started, when the unions left the Economy Ministry after four hours of fruitless negotiations.

Three unions carried out the strike: La Fraternidad (train drivers), the Signalmen's Association and the senior staff union. The Union Ferroviaria—a fourth union at odds with the other three—did not join the stoppage but did not accept the 80,000-austral lump sum offered by the government.

For his part, Labour Minister Jorge Triaca urged the striking unions "to give up their attitude," otherwise negotiations and dialogue will come to an end, he warned.

In other developments, Education Minister Antonio Salonia said that there will be no decree or draft law for the educational emergency but rather this will be a measure "on parole."

For his part, ministry adviser Alberto Spotta explained that this measure is aimed both at "guaranteeing the students a minimum of 180 teaching days" and at making up for the lost teaching hours due to the stoppages staged by the teachers.

Spotta said that the government would prefer the teachers' protest to be channelled in a way "not affecting the children," and pointed out that the shortest school period in the world amounts to 200 days a year, something the authorities wish to guarantee.

Meanwhile, the round-the-clock strike to be staged by the telephone workers conpletes a series of two-hour stoppages per shift launched last Monday [?26 March] and which is to finish next Friday [?13 April].

In other labor news:

* The Casfpi, Industry Personnel Family Allowances Fund, was informed that family allowances have been increased as of April 1, the new benefits being 10,000 australs for spouse, child or maternity, 40,000 australs for large families and 10,000 australs for schooling expenses (kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary levels).

* The Court Employees Association (UEJN) accepted the wage hike established by a government decree while judges and other officials received salary increases lower than requested with a basic 2.75 million australs set for a Supreme Court justice.

* Renault auto manufacturers laid off for 48 hours some 2,000 workers in their Santa Isabel and Ilasa factories in Cordoba, in an alleged "internal reshuffling" of the company. During these two days, Renault will pay the workers 75 percent of their normal wages.

* Doctors, dentists, chemists, biochemists, psychologists, and kinesiologists throughout the country will go on strike on 6 April demanding "decent fees" and the defence of the health system.

* The government gave Armed Forces civilian personnel a 70,000-austral one-time lump-sum bonus, retroactive to March 1.

Entel Strikes Despite Warning

PY0404192490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Today Entel employees are staging a 24-hour nationwide strike despite a warning by the Labor Ministry and President Menem that public sector unions that persist in striking, as in the case of the railway workers union, will be stripped of their legal status. The 24-hour strike is the core of a plan involving partial and selective two-hour strikes per shift, as agreed by all the Entel unions, that started on Monday, 2 April, and will end on Friday, 6 April. [passage omitted]

This measure causes many inconveniences, especially for the press agencies and their communications with the interior of the country. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Speaks at Montreal Meeting

PY0504010790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0110 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Report by special envoy Alberto Lippi]

[Text] Montreal, 1 Apr (TELAM)—Argentine Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez tonight presented the guidelines of his economic plan to an audience that surpassed, in quality and quantity, the expected 200 people. Among those attending the presentation were several Argentine congressmen and bankers.

During the one-hour meeting, which was held at the Montreal Congressional Palace, Gonzalez was accompanied by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Chairman Enrique Iglesias, who said he was "surprised at the vigor that the government put into the economic reform."

Gonzalez pointed out the good performance of the economic indexes during the month of March. He said that in March the dollar rate decreased by 20 percent, that prices "went down, but not by as much as they went up in February," but that we can observe "a recovery of the salaries purchasing power as a result of the achieved stability, and a good tendency in the negotiation of the worker-businessmen accords." He also pointed out that there has been "an incipient demand for credit."

The minister revealed that the country will only be in a condition to hold talks with the creditor banks "at the end of April," because although the foreign debt "is not the adjustment variable" of the government economic plan, "it would not be responsible to discuss how much Argentina will pay on its debt before knowing how much it can count on."

He added that, one way or the other, the creditor banks can take part in tender biddings for the privatization of the state-owned enterprises because, "as a rule, Argentina will not charge any percentage on the debt titles."

Gonzalez also pointed out that there will be intervention in the Central Bank "for a few days," and that its reorganization will be "entirely autonomous" from the monetary point of view. It will have to "supervise the monetary base and suspend the printing of money," while the superintendency departments of the financial entities and the department that will handle the foreign investments will be "monitored" to comply with the general economic policy.

Also on the podium, next to the head of the Argentine delegation, were the Argentine representatives at the IDB and at the financial community, Jorge Sakamoto and Daniel Marx, and advisers Rafael Iniesta, Roque Cevallos, and Jorge Murillo.

Among those attending the meeting were Congressmen Jorge Dominguez, Raul Baglinin, Jorge Matzkin, Oscar Lamberto, and Juan Trilla.

In his message, Gonzalez said the operations in which the bank deposits were exchanged for dollar-denominated bonds of the 1989 series "were a real rescue," because "if we had not adopted this measure, domestic savings would have been reduced by 20 percent of their value as a result of hyperinflation."

"Three months after the implementation of this measure, we can say that only those who needed their money immediately were harmed. As the economic program develops, the value of these bonds will increase further," he said.

He pointed out that the rationalization measures that were adopted at the state-owned enterprises last week "do not go against the privatization process," on the contrary, "they will increase the value of the enterprises" because the enterprises will be in a better financial situation when they are sold.

He said that, by just reducing their expenses by 20 percent, the state-owned enterprises have saved in their purchases ($7 billion), which is "an amount equivalent to our national gold reserves."

Later, in a meeting with the few Argentine journalists who are in Montreal to cover the annual IDB meeting, the minister said that he met with William Rhodes, the chairman of the Committee of Argentine Creditor Banks, to whom he explained the reasons why the negotiations on the payments to the banks can only begin in April or May.

Asked about Rhodes' reaction, he said: "He agreed to start talks on a concrete program."

Gonzalez supports the idea of a political agreement to help to soothe the internal variables, but pointed out that currently, "we are fighting hyperinflation with deeds and not with words."

"The agreement is important, but symptoms such as the decrease in prices, a stable exchange rate, and an incipient economic recovery are also important," he said.

Asked whether the meetings he has been holding—and will continue to hold—with the IMF, the World Bank, and the IDB are aimed at obtaining a $2-billion loan package, Gonzalez said: "I do not put objectives into figures. All will depend on how much credibility we can gain at the eyes of the (?international financial community and whether) [words indistinct] positive" toward the country.

"They admit that our methods are harsh, but they realize that they are the only solution," he emphasized.

Financial Aid Sought From IDB

PY0504012090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Report by special correspondent Alberto Lippi]

[Text] Montreal (Canada), 2 April (TELAM)—Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today presented to IDB President Enrique Iglesias an ambitious financial assistance program under which the IDB provides up to $4 billion to be used for food and nutrition, health, and employment and social security programs.

Among the various proposals presented to the IDB, seeking to secure funds, is a program to pay severances, salaries for one year, and to retrain the public servants who must be dismissed because of the government ordered reorganization.

Later, the economy minister signed a $250-million loan agreements for the Yacyreta project.

Gonzalez met with the IDB president and his team a few hours after Iglesias formally opened the 31st IDB annual meeting and after having lunch with World Bank President Barber Conable.

The minister noted that Iglesias commented during the opening ceremony of the IDB meeting that it was necessary "to have a smaller state in order to have a stronger government," and that this seemed to have been written at Argentina's request because that was President Carlos Menem's idea.

The assistance program seeks to secure loans with a 10-year repayment period and a five-year grace period to reorganize the central administration, streamline the public enterprises, and aid the provinces.

The Argentine plan is aimed at securing about $1 billion for each of the four above-mentioned programs that will be jointly financed with the World Bank. The terms of the loans foresee, after 20 percent of the program is fulfilled, the provision to apply for more funds. Thus, the above-mentioned figure is merely tentative as it could be even larger.

Social emergency

The social emergency loan would be allocated to four sub-groups, involving; 1. food and nutrition for pregnant mothers, children, old people, and disabled people; 2. health—to maintain hospitals and equip them with the basic items that will ensure adequate medical care; 3. employment—designed to retrain non-essential public servants and pay their salaries for one year or pay their severances, and; 4. social security—to create an unemployment insurance, provide (non monetary) assistance to retirees, and determine what should be done with the solidary bonds.

Public Administration

The public administration program is designed to reorganize industrial promotions, adjust the tax laws, program and control the budget (preparing zero base budgets, that is, independently of the result achieved in the former fiscal year and justifying every expenditure), reform the Central Bank's organization charter, and reorganize the (?financial) system.

Public enterprises will be able to use the funds obtained from rationalizing their purchasing and contracting systems, which has already been approved through a 29 March government decree.

Provinces.

The program dealing with the provinces will seeks to determine their financial status because there are no financial figures available for many of the provinces; it will also help the provinces to reorganize themselves; to implement an investment program that will ensure that not all the funds are used in social assistance—which does not show a profit—but rather into productive efforts that will yield 100-percent returns; and finally, to finance technical assistance and personnel training so that provincial personnel can manage their own projects.

Terms

Following the formal presentation of these programs, IDB experts will analyze them before releasing the funds.

Minister Gonzalez pointed out that presenting a new plan is not the same as negotiating a program that has already been discussed with the financial organizations authorities.

In the case of programs that have already been discussed, the internal process, that normally takes one year, is reduced to six months, as it has just occurred.

Gonzalez pointed out that the loan to assist the provinces—which amounts to $3 billion and which will be paid in 10 yearly installments of $300 million—will be received in Argentina in October. He explained that the provinces can choose to join this program or not, and that if they do, each province's project will be discussed individually with the IDB, and they must guarantee to repay the tax co-participation funds.

Yacyreta

The loan for the Yacyreta construction works, which was signed today, is the third loan that the IDB will grant to Argentina. As the Yacyreta project is also being financed

by the World Bank, the IDB $250-million loan has enabled Argentina to receive a $82-million disbursement that the World Bank had frozen.

Some $40 million of the $250-million loan can be used almost immediately.

Public Finance Under Secretary's Message

PY0404130890 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Public Finances Under Secretary Raul Cuello's message to the country; place not given on 3 April—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Argentine citizens: It is my responsibility to assist the economy minister with the formulation of fiscal policy as well as fiscal and customs administration. I must confess that this is not an easy task and that it calls for a continuous effort by all who are part of the Public Finances Under Secretariat and the organizations that depend on it: The General Tax Directorate, the National Customs Administration, and the National Fiscal Court.

My objective tonight is to tell you about the philosophy that frames our activities, the objectives we have set, and the results we have been obtaining. As all of you well know, the inflationary process, which reached three digits in 1975 and has been threatening the country with hyperinflation since mid-1989, has seriously harmed some basic functions of our society, such as income generation used to finance state development, which affects our foreign surpluses [superavits externos]. In this field, the individual behavior of some has sometimes harmed the interests of society as a whole, because tax evasion and currency evasion have clearly contributed to strong inflationary tendencies, resulting from fiscal and exchange imbalances. [passage omitted]

I must also say that different interest groups have managed to obtain tax reductions and tax exemptions through several legal maneuvers. These groups thus managed to evade paying their taxes with what they like to believe are legal evasion mechanisms. Tax evasion efforts have contributed to a pathological reality that must be fought by all of us if we want to build a different and better country.

The worse aspect of this so-called national sport is that there is no way out for any of us. The profit made by some is compensated, through various tax mechanisms, by the contribution of others, such as the taxes on public services rates. If this compensation is not achieved, however, it originates the worst of all taxes: inflation, which is very negative.

This tax called inflation weighs more heavily on the shoulders of those who have less and, worst of all, prevents national growth and welfare by making it impossible to invest in production. It can be said that many refuse to pay their taxes because the state spends too much. Well, this may be true but it does not justify the argument, because public expenses can always be financed one way or another.

The national government has decided to put an end to this situation through legal measures that are known to all. On the path that leads to a better fiscal discipline, we do not feel lonely because we realize our society is reviewing its former behavior, an attitude that we must praise. With this objective, we are adopting various measures:

First, we are reformulating the fiscal structure. We started this reformulation in August 1989. [passage omitted]

Second, we have created a single and free exchange rate. [passage omitted]

Third, we are increasing tax collection controls and improving tax collection mechanisms by assigning public employees and agents from other state-owned organizations to this task.

In the field of operational effectiveness, the World Bank is financing the development of several information science systems because we want to provide the tax payers the service and attention they deserve. [passage omitted]

We are firmly against tax evasion and as a result we are implementing—sternly but responsibly—deterrent mechanisms that we can count on. They are fines, closing of businesses, and the recently published Tax Penal Law. The combined use of all these elements have allowed us to close the month of March with a tax collection surplus of nearly 300 billion australes over the amount foreseen in our budget. [passage omitted]

We are firmly treading the path that leads to stability and we must, therefore, double our efforts. As you well understand—while we cannot delegate our responsibility—we will not be able to put an end to tax evasion and to contraband unless we all contribute. This is why I want to finish by asking you to support and understand a task that relies on the contribution of everyone, because we are not only contributing to the success of an administration but to the destiny of our fatherland. The support and contribution we are calling for must be rendered within the laws that rule us and which must be obeyed by all of us. Thank you very much.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With EEC

PY0404133890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] High-ranking government officials reported today that the economic and commercial cooperation agreement signed between Argentina and the EEC contains some new elements which are unprecedented in this type of agreement.

This is, for example, the first economic and commercial cooperation agreement that includes cooperation in the political and financial sectors. This has become clear by the commitment assumed by the EEC to strengthen the

democratic process and integration with Brazil and Uruguay. The EEC offers development cooperation to nonmember countries through concrete projects.

This agreement will allow Argentina to participate in scientific and technological research programs at the highest level. It contemplates cooperation in all areas of the agricultural and livestock sectors, and especially in cyto-sanitary programs.

In the industrial sector, this cooperation will help design projects for the creation of joint Argentine-European small and medium-size enterprises to facilitate the transfer of technology.

Minister on Menem's 'Statement' on Yacyreta Dam

PY0404202790 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Relay From Government House]

[Text] Public Works and Service Minister Jose Roberto Dromi, after a meeting with President Carlos Menem, explained that the president did not make a legal evaluation but rather a political statement yesterday when he mentioned the possibility of paralyzing the construction of the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam. He also noted that this decision does not suspend relations with Paraguay, which he labelled as friendly, nor with the international creditor banking sector.

Dromi added that Carlos Menem wants to make a break because he believes that the project is consuming much more than was originally budgeted.

Government Not Adverse to Intervening in Tucuman

PY0404225590 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpt] As he was leaving Government House at noon today, Interior Under Secretary Rodolfo Barra asserted that if the conflict affecting Tucuman Province is not solved through institutional channels, the government will intervene.

He also said that he believes that President Carlos Menem must have already discussed the appointment of an intermediary with the interior minister. Barra said that the name of the intervener will only be disclosed if the government decides to intervene in the province.

This is what the under secretary said about the possibility of intervening in Tucuman Province in the next few hours:

[Begin Barra Recording] The possibility exists, however, I would not say in the next few hours. It could happen in the next few days if the problem is not solved. So far there is a conflict of powers between the provincial legislative and judicial branches. The problem could get worse and become a conflict with the provincial executive branch. If by 8 April, when the governor is due to address the legislative branch, it has still not been decided whether it is to be unicameral or bicameral, whether it is in keeping with the previous constitution or the new constitution, and whether this new constitution is valid or not. In sum, there is a very serious judicial-political problem that will affect the Tucuman residents. As you can imagine, they need to know what law to abide by, they need to know whether the law approved by the legislative branch with its previous structure is valid or whether the new constitution is valid. This is a problem that affects their daily activities. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Minister Criticizes Comments by U.S. Ambassador

PY0404164490 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 7

[Text] The Minister of the Presidency, Gustavo Fernandez, has rejected a statement by U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard and the contents of a note written by a Wold Bank official. Fernandez said that the National Unity government is guided by an unwavering principle: economic, social, and political policies are defined according to the national interests by the executive branch in La Paz.

During a news conference the U.S. ambassador expressed the need for the government to modify its policies that discourage investors and suggested that the government should sign an agreement with Lithco [expansion unknown] and expand Cobee's [expansion unknown] activities in Bolivia.

Moreover, the Wold Bank representative noted in her report that the government acts in an incoherent manner, because on the one hand it seeks to stabilize the Bolivian economy, but on the other it increases red tape and is determined to maintain various structures that do not allow private participation in important sectors. Fernandez said that this was the opinion of the person who signed the report and not that of the World Bank. He asserted: "The government deeply respects the opinion of officials of international organizations, but its relationship with these organizations is based on a defined policy." He added that the National Unity government in La Paz is in charge of defining the national policy in keeping with Bolivian interests.

When journalists asked Fernandez whether the executive branch also believed that Ambassador Gelbard's statement represented an intervention, as was stated by the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Fernandez repeated the aforementioned statement.

The minister of the Presidency also declined commenting on congressmens' request that the government file a formal protest against Ambassador Gelbard.

Congress Condemns 'Interference'

PY0404162290 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] The Bolivian Congress has decried U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard's interference in Bolivian domestic affairs. The United Left [IU] has announced its intentions to have Gelbard be declared "persona non grata" and be expelled from the country. The legislators criticized the ambassador's behavior for a series of "unfortunate declarations" linked with national matters.

Chamber of Deputies President Fernando Kieffer was annoyed by Gelbard's latest declarations. Gelbard had recommended that legislators in Congress discuss a series of bills, which in his opinion are of priority interest to attract foreign investments.

"He makes remarks that are outside of his charter. We think that the executive branch should talk with the ambassador to explain—in good terms—the situation to him. We would not want to carry the issue to the extreme of an open confrontation with the ambassador," Kieffer said. Kieffer added that the Foreign Ministry should talk to the ambassador to make their protest known and put a limit to his interventions.

IU Deputy German Gutierrez said that the U.S. ambassador's "recommendations" are an "offense" to the nation. "It is an arrogant attitude to pressure the Congress to discuss an issue. It is an abusive and arrogant interference," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez added that Gelbard is the least appropriate person in the country to offer "prescriptions," adding that the executive branch has to act to prevent Gelbard's continuing with his series of tactless remarks. Gutierrez announced that a note will be independently submitted to the Congress Commission asking the Commission to request the Foreign Ministry to declare the ambassador "persona non grata" and expell him from the territory.

According to the legislator, Gelbard not only suggests but also lobbies at the national level on future actions in the fight on drug trafficking and other issues. Gutierrez said that in the case of drug trafficking the ambassador pretends to be unaware of the Cartagena agreement that was signed by the Presidents of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and the United States. Gelbard lobbies for the militarization of the fight on drug trafficking and for increased pressure on Bolivian coca leave growers, Gutierrez added. Copies of the notes will be sent to the two government branches for their consideration.

Brazil

Ramifications of 'New Brazil Plan' Being Felt

Labor Minister on Salary Payments

PY0404142990 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Antonio Rogerio Magri said yesterday that enterprises which do not pay March salaries, due to alleged difficulties created by Collor's economic program, should be blamed for this situation.

He said that workers should be aware that it is not the government's fault if enterprises do not pay them their salaries. The employers are responsible for the payment of salaries, the minister added. Magri said that the worker who is not paid his salary should stop working and stage a strike. "But he has to know that the strike is not staged against the government, or against the economic plan that was prepared for him, but against the enterprises which seek to disrupt the country's modernization process."

New Income Tax Table

PY0404232290 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] According to a new income tax (IR) table released yesterday by the Economy Ministry, taxpayers will pay less income tax, in real terms, in April than they paid in March. The IR table was adjusted by 41.28 percent while salaries will increase only slightly in April. As a result, the number of exempt taxpayers or taxpayers passing to lower tax brackets will increase. According to Economy Ministry experts, this adjustment will cause a 20-percent loss in collections for the Federal Government. According to the new IR table, wage earners who earn up to 23,788 cruzeiros per month are exempt from paying income tax in April. Deductions per dependent person now total 1,669 cruzeiros and deductions for retirees 65 and older total 20,032 cruzeiros.

Problems in Government Operations

PY0504000490 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Fifteen days after the government's inauguration, the profound administrative reform that has abolished ministries and dismissed officials has also made it impossible to implement a budget because the state machinery has become jammed and several government sectors immobilized.

Health Minister Alceni Guerra, for example, has already withdrawn his decision to dismiss 528 commissioned Health Ministry officials because the Health Ministry has been unable to operate without them. Some ministers, such as Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva and

Social Action Minister Margarida Procopio, do not know what appropriations will be available to them.

Losses in the exports sector now total $100 million. Insurance companies do not know the rules on compensation payments and chaos has already reached the mechanics' workshops. In the economic area, cases of boycotts, such as the disappearance of diskettes with basic information, have already been reported.

Cardoso Returns; To Address Congress

PY0504023890 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report by Mair Lucy Vilela from Brasilia]

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, who returned today from Canada, arrived at the Economy Ministry shortly before 1000 this morning. Before entering her office, she briefly commented on her trip. She said the stabilization plan was very well received by the international financial community.

Regarding the foreign debt, the minister said negotiations will not start until the economic measures are approved by the National Congress. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow at 1100, Cardoso will go the National Congress to emphasize to congressmen the need to approve the measures included in the New Brazil Plan.

New Economy Secretary Speaks

PY0504020890 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 90 p B-10

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro—The dismissals that are taking place were expected by the government and the recession should continue for the next two months. In the second half of this year, however, the economy will grow again. These remarks were made by Joao Maia, the new economy secretary who is replacing Marcelo Paiva de Abreu, who resigned on 27 March. After announcing his stabilization plan, President Fernando Collor guaranteed that the government would avoid massive dismissals, threatening businessmen by implementing mechanisms to guarantee job stability. Maia said the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would not decrease this year despite the plunge in economic activity. [passage omitted]

Regarding future price policy, Maia reasserted the willingness of the economic authorities to march toward total liberalization. As soon as the plan achieves results and the government is sure that the economy has been stabilized, Maia said, the cost records system will be eliminated.

Maia said that his team at the Economy Secretariat has already been formed. Arthur Denod de Medeiros, Brazilian ambassador to Suriname, will head the Foreign Trade Department [Departamento de Comercio Exterior]. Mauricio de Assis will head the Trade Coordinating Department [Coordenadoria de Intercambio Comercial] (formerly Cacex [Foreign Trade Department]). Economist Luis Paulo Velloso Lucas, who was the chief of the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] Planning Department, will head the Industry and Commerce Department. Lastly, Edgar Pereira, Maia's replacement, will head the Supply and Prices Department.

Foreign Minister Prepares for European Tour

PY0504030790 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report by Corvan Costa from Brasilia]

[Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek today met with members of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee to discuss last week's meeting of the Group of Rio that he attended in Mexico.

On 6 April Minister Rezek will take his first trip to Europe, where he will attend meetings in London and Budapest. In London he will attend a ministerial conference which will be opened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The conference will focus on ways to reduce the drug trafficing.

Commenting on Brazil's position on this topic, Rezek said:

[Begin Rezek recording] The only facet that Brazil will not endorse is the idea of using the repression of the drug trade to justify the violation of rules of international law on territorial sovereignty and the fact that each country is the master of its own territory. If these rules are respected, Brazil will fully support every action to find a solution to this high-priority problem as soon as possible and with everyone's cooperation. [end recording]

In Budapest, Rezek will attend a meeting of Latin American representatives with their counterparts from the European Community. The topics on the agenda will include foreign debt, the drug trade, and environmental pollution.

Chile

Possible Rift Between Executive, Judicial Branch

Interior Minister Comments

PY0404040490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 230 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The government will study a petition made by the Supreme Court, asking for security measures both for the courthouse and for the judges working there. This is a result of the incidents caused at the courthouse by relatives of political prisoners.

Interior Minister Enrique Krauss read a communique stating that no demonstration can help solve the problems, but, on the contrary, can only represent an obstacle to finding solutions. The communique also stresses that the

situation of the prisoners and the indicted persons is a question which the government is seriously concerned about, but that the mechanisms to resolve the problems must realistically suit current conditions. Later Krauss said:

[Begin Krauss recording] It does not contradict what I have just said to say that we must consider the demands of the Supreme Court for security measures, both for the courthouse and for the judges performing their duties there. The Supreme Court does not specify the security measures that should be taken. Any change would involve changing security measures that have been implemented without any objection until now.

The president of the Republic has instructed the justice minister to discuss this matter with the president of the Supreme Court and, if materially and technically possible, to take the measures that appear to be appropriate. [end recording]

The communique read by the interior minister concludes by pointing out that, regarding the crimes reportedly committed—as stated in the Supreme Court decision—by demonstrators inside the Supreme Court building, it is up to the president of the pertinent court to take action regarding their investigation and punishment.

Supreme Court Denies 'Crisis'

PY0404142290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] During a special plenary session, the Supreme Court decided to turn down an invitation from President Patricio Aylwin for a meeting at La Moneda Palace to analyze and adopt measures in connection with the incidents at the court building.

Aylwin instructed Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido to go to the Supreme Court offices and meet with Court President Luis Maldonado and convey to him the government's denunciaiton of the violent actions that affected the activities of the Appellate Court and of the Supreme Court.

During a long meeting with Maldonado, Cumplido conveyed the president's message. The minister and the Supreme Court president considered the adoption of some measures for solving any existing problems, seeking to optimize the operation of both courts. After the meeting, Minister Cumplido talked with journalists and reiterated several concepts which he mentioned to the Supreme Court president.

[Begin Cumplido recording, in progress] ...to reiterate to the Supreme Court president the government's rejection of the incidents that occurred yesterday, to tell him that the government has maintained the security measures which were already in force at the courts, and above all to ask him about the security measures which the Supreme Court would consider essential, because the Court apparently feels that it does not have enough protection for discharging its duties. [end recording]

Cumplido added that among the measures for immediate implementation is a possible increase in the number of guards. He said he hopes that the number of prisoners will decrease after the approval of the general pardon law, which will be submitted to Congress in the near future.

[Begin recording] [Cumplido] I believe the number of guards will be increased, but we have to see about the availability of personnel, because there is a considerable personnel shortage in the Gendarmerie. We hope that the general pardon law to be submitted to congress will reduce the number of prisoners, thus ...

[Reporter, interrupting] By approximately how many?

[Cumplido] The issue is under consideration, I cannot give you an exact figure...

[Reporter, interrupting] But, approximately how many?

[Cumplido] I believe that the bill should be ready in some 15 days. It will produce a major reduction in the number of prisoners, thus avoiding crowded imprisonment. At the same time, the number of prisoners will be compatible with the number of available gendarmes. [end recording]

The Minister added that he visited the former public penitentiary to meet the political prisoners who are not on a hunger strike. He voiced hopes that those who are on a hunger strike will reconsider their attitude.

For its part, the Supreme Court has rejected a statement by President Aylwin on an alleged crisis within the judicial branch. The plenary session of the Supreme Court issued a communique on a speech that Aylwin delivered in Pucon over the weekend. In his speech, Aylwin said that the judicial branch is experiencing a crisis. The Supreme Court answered by saying the judicial branch is not in a crisis because it is discharging, and because it will continue to discharge, its mission of administering justice with the most absolute independence, which existed in the past, which exists in the present, and which has always been respected by the other branches of government. The Supreme Court said that mutual respect is useful and that it should be preserved.

The Court president concluded by saying: Our economic problems, whatever their nature, are unimportant and become meaningless when compared with the beautiful, yet misunderstood mission of administering justice. The Court thus replied to the speech that President Aylwin delivered to a convention of judges in Pucon.

Government General Secretary Comments

PY0404185890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Graciela Contreras from Government House]

[Text] A few minutes ago Government General Secretary Enrique Correa denied the existence of a crisis between the executive and judicial branches. Correa was referring to a Supreme Court communique that rejects what President Aylwin said in Pucon over the weekend at a judges' convention. President Aylwin said the Chilean judicial branch is experiencing a crisis and that laws should be passed to restructure it.

[Begin Correa recording] The government is surprised by the declaration approved by a majority of the Supreme Court because there seems to be a complete consensus—and we have verified that this consensus includes all political sectors represented in Congress—that the Chilean judicial branch is experiencing a serious crisis.

We are also surprised by the Supreme Court's reaction because President Aylwin delivered a speech before a judges' congress and it was welcomed by an ovation. This means that Chilean judges agree with the president's diagnosis of the critical situation of the Chilean judicial branch.

Aside from the government's opinion, I believe all Chileans, all the political parties represented in Congress, without exception, and the judges are aware of this situation. [end recording]

As for the invitation that President Aylwin extended to Supreme Court Chief Justice Luis Maldonado and the other Supreme Court members to come to Government House, Correa said this meeting has been suspended by mutual agreement.

Party Leaders React to 'Crisis'

PY0504003490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Independent Democratic Union [UDI] President Julio Dittborn has said that the judicial branch is not experiencing a crisis. He admitted, however, that it must be modernized. Dittborn was referring to the impasse, as he called it, that is taking place between the executive and judicial branches. [passage omitted]

Julio Dittborn said that he does not have any evidence that would lead him to think that the judicial branch is not acting with total independence. In our opinion, this is an unfair accusation against the judicial branch, the political leader added. We hope that the judicial branch will be able to improve and become notably modernized, the UDI president concluded. [passage omitted]

Jorge Arrate, the secretary general of the Socialist Party of Chile, has described the attitude of some Supreme Court members, who rejected an invitation from President Patricio Aylwin to visit La Moneda and discuss the issue of judicial branch modernization, as unusual and completely illogical.

Jorge Arrate indicated that, in his opinion, this attitude of the Supreme Court—of some Supreme Court members—and of some Chileans demonstrates that they are engaged in a process that does not want to admit the need to expedite and modernize justice in Chile. [passage omitted]

National Renewal Vice President Miguel Otero has said that the judicial branch is not experiencing a crisis. The political leader said that his party regrets the fact that this conflict between the executive and judicial branches has broken out just a few weeks after the inauguration of the Aylwin government. [passage omitted]

[Begin Otero recording] The Supreme Court is correct when it says that the judicial branch is not experiencing a crisis in terms of their duty to administer justice and resolve conflicts. We cannot ignore the fact, however, that there are serious problems. These problems were pointed out not only by this government; our own party reported them earlier.

I think that these problems will lead to improvements in the administration of justice and that this is a duty for every government and for all Chileans. [end recording]

The National Renewal vice president said that he could not agree with the remarks made by President Patricio Aylwin that the judicial branch had not acted with total independence. Judges do not make laws, they apply them, Miguel Otero argued.

Interior Minister on Controversy

PY0504014690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has said that there is no reason to sever relations—which should be normal—between two branches of the state, referring to the executive and legislative [as heard] branches. The interior minister made this remark in response to a question on the speech by President Aylwin in Pucon, where he stated that justice in Chile was experiencing a crisis and needed to be reformed.

Minister Krauss reiterated the government's position that the decision made by the Supreme Court, which issued a statement against the observations of the president, merely draws more attention to the issue.

It should be remembered that, among other ideas, the president proposed the creation of a National Council of Justice [Consejo Nacional de la Justicia] and a Judicial School [Escuela Judicial].

Krauss recalled that, for a long time, it has been pointed that there are a number of factors leading to the assertion that there are elements of crisis in the justice system. The minister was asked if the dialogue would be discontinued.

[Begin Krauss recording] I suppose that there is no reason to sever relations—which should be normal—between two branches of the state. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

JANE'S Names Nations 'Capable' of Producing Bomb

PY0404200790 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The specialized weekly magazine JANE'S has reported that Chile, Iran, the ROK, and Libya are capable of producing nuclear weapons, based on their technology and their political will.

The weekly believes that Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, DPRK, and Taiwan may also try to produce nuclear weapons.

Before the discovery of the affair involving nuclear detonators for Iraq in London, the list of countries with nuclear programs included India, Pakistan, Israel, and South Africa.

In addition to the nuclear club of five—the United States, the USSR, Great Britain, France, and the PRC—at least nine other countries are about to produce nuclear weapons.

Colombia

Barco Promises Impartial Trial for Pablo Escobar

PA0404172490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] In Strasbourg today, President Virgilio Barco Vargas told Radio Cadena Nacional that if Pablo Escobar surrenders to the authorities, he guarantees that he will be tried impartially by Colombian judges. The head of state discussed the topic with this station at the end of a speech he delivered to the European Parliament.

Answering a question on whether Escobar's potential surrender can be negotiated, Barco answered: This is a different problem. At one point Escobar publicly offered to turn in dynamite, and he did. He said that he was going to turn in some helicopters, and he did. He said that he was going to turn in some planes, and he did. He also said that he was going to surrender. Each time people have asked me, I have said that if Mr. Escobar surrenders I guarantee that he will by tried with full impartiality, the president added.

Furthermore, Barco said that it would be a shame if such an important newspaper as EL ESPECTADOR stopped circulating or giving its international views because of threats from drug traffickers.

In his speech to the European Parliament, Barco spoke of the need for Colombia and other countries, that are victims of organized crime, to receive economic assistance from the most powerful countries.

The head of state is flying to Paris at this moment. He will meet with French President Francois Mitterrand this afternoon.

Extraditables Threaten To Kill Kidnapped Senator

PA0404212490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1928 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 4 Apr (EFE)—The Extraditables, the armed organization of the Medellin Cartel, today threatened to execute Liberal Senator Federico Estrada Velez, who was kidnapped on 3 April, if the Colombian authorities do not release two of their comrades who have reportedly been detained by the police.

The same organization also reiterates, in an 11-point communique, its threats against the oligarchy in Bogota and against all the members of the Cano family, who own the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR and whom the organization accuses of opposing peace and of being the biggest instigators of war.

The communique, delivered today to the news media, claims responsibility for the kidnapping of 64-year-old Senator Estrada Velez, whom the Extraditables say is a staunch enemy of dialogue and peace.

Paraguay

Rodriguez, Argentine President Dedicate Bridge

PY0304192590 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 90 pp 6,7

[Report by Victor Franco, Gustavo Barrios, Rene Baez, Johny Capdevila and Gelio Mendoza]

[Excerpt] Argentine President Carlos Menem and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez met yesterday to dedicate the "San Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz" international bridge that links the cities of Encarnacion [in Paraguay] and Posadas [in Argentina]. The two presidents took advantage of this occasion to discuss issues of common interest, such as the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam, the Corpus dam project, the Parana-Paraguay waterway, the availability of port facilities for trade purposes, and the prospects of effective integration through joint and regional undertakings.

General Rodriguez said that the international bridge on the Parana river "will strengthen trade and will help to establish a development pole that will in turn benefit the two countries which are united by the bridge and which will soon sign agreements."

After bidding farewell to Menem during a brief ceremony held on the "San Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz" bridge, Rodriguez mentioned the importance of the waterway. He said that "the countries involved in the project (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia and Paraguay) have already signed agreements for import and export port facilities."

He added: "We will have to modernize the 'Carlos Antonio Lopez' Central Railroad to be able to properly exploit the bridge that we dedicated today."

Rodriguez also said that soon Paraguay, Chile, and Bolivia will join the Group of Eight, which will become the Group of 11 because "as Latin American countries integrate they will be better able to achieve their goals."

Asked whether during his meeting with President Menem, they discussed the current Yacyreta labor conflict, Rodriguez said that this is a Paraguayan issue and, therefore, there was no need to discuss the subject with President Menem. Rodriguez urged the Paraguayan workers on strike in Yacyreta to reconsider their decision and "to offer more love and kindness to their fellow countrymen", and to return to work.

The official ceremony was held amid a persistent rainfall in the middle of the international bridge on the Parana River. At 1000 Gen Andres Rodriguez and Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived at the site where the ceremony was held. They embraced each other and mounted the special rostrum that was decorated with the Argentine and Paraguayan flags.

After singing the national anthems, President Menem delivered a speech in which he noted the importance of the new bridge. President Rodriguez then delivered a speech in which he reasserted the importance of the bridge. President Rodriguez said this constitutes a new stage in the enhancement of the friendship ties that unite the two countries. [passage omitted]

Argentina's Menem May Suspend Yacyreta Project

Argana 'Surprised' by Remark

PY0404002490 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Apr 90 pp 12, 13

[Text] Commenting to ULTIMA HORA on Argentine President Carlos Menem's remark that Argentina is studying the temporary suspension and revision of the Yacyreta project, Alcides Gimenez, the Paraguayan director of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise (EBY), said: "This report contradicts the terms of the talks held yesterday by the two presidents in Encarnacion and at a separate meeting held by all the officials who were present there."

Citing the Argentine president's remarks on the occasion of the dedication of the Encarnacion-Posadas bridge, Gimenez said: "We have no comments to make on this report because we know nothing about it. His remarks here were of a different tone. Menem spoke of continuing the project, of the importance of completing it on schedule. Thus, we cannot really understand this new report."

Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana this morning expressed surprise over Argentine President Carlos Menem's decision to suspend the Yacyreta hydroelectric project.

Argana said: "I cannot comment on that report in my capacity as foreign minister. Yet, personally I am surprised by President Menem's remarks because every time I talked to him he expressed his government's political decision to complete Yacyreta because it is necessary for Argentina and because Argentine economic development could be delayed if the hydroelectric project were paralyzed."

Argana said he will wait for confirmation from the Argentine Government about this report. He said: "Then we will discuss this subject with the Argentine officials because it should not be overlooked that Yacyreta is a binational project and that this type of decision cannot be made unilaterally."

Rodriguez Comments, Denies Problems

PY0404195390 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 90 pp 12, 13

[Text] Questioned about reports from Buenos Aires that Argentine President Menem has decided to suspend the construction of the Yacyreta dam for six months, which Argentina and Paraguay are building across the Parana River, President Andres Rodriguez yesterday said: "That is not true."

Referring to press reports about the suspension of the construction work because it constitutes a "monument to corruption," President Rodriguez said that "I can assure you these reports are false." President Rodriguez made this statement just after midday yesterday as he was leaving Government House.

President Rodriguez read the international news agency reports yesterday morning and then spoke by phone with Argentine President Menem. He later said that the construction of the dam over the Panama River, which has been entrusted to a Paraguayan-Argentine company said: "Absolutely not. This work is irreversible." [passage as published]

During the dedication ceremony of the Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz bridge over the Parana River, Rodriguez and Menem said that the Yacyreta and Corpus dams will establish the basis for a future regional energy-integration system.

Education Minister Authorized To Travel to USSR

PY0404230790 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Apr 90 p 7

[Excerpts] A member of the executive branch will travel to the USSR for the first time in Paraguayan history. President Rodriguez yesterday authorized Education Minister Dionisio Gonzalez Torres to travel to Moscow. Gonzalez Torres is scheduled to make the trip to Moscow next week.

Gonzalez Torres met with President Rodriguez yesterday at Government House and later reported that he is visiting the Soviet Union in response to an invitation extended by the Soviet Government, the World Medical Association [Academia de Medicina Mundial], and the Soviet Academy of Sciences. He said: "These three organizations invite personalities related to the world of science and culture." [passage omitted]

Asked whether this visit will be the beginning of a rapprochement with the Soviet Union, Gonzalez Torres said: "This could happen later. This is something that concerns the government. Paraguayan scientists are now travelling to the USSR." [passage omitted]

Peru

Electoral Court: Election Material Distributed

PY0404145890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] National Electoral Court President Carlos Castaneda Lafontaine has said that all the electoral material needed for the election has already been distributed throughout the country. Castaneda said that now only the Peruvian people can decide whether we will have a runoff.

[Begin recording] [Castaneda] All the material has been distributed throughout the country. The very small percentage that has still to be distributed has been provided for, nothing will be missing, everything will be delivered, everything will arrive at its destination in time. We do not have any problems, any concerns about any problem. Everything has been provided for. The little percentage of places which still have not received the documents will receive them in a very short time.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the percentage that is missing?

[Castaneda] I repeat, nothing is missing.

[Reporter] You have just said a small percentage is still missing.

[Castaneda] There are some very remote places in the jungle that will receive the material via helicopter. I am only supposing, I am not even assuring, that the material has not arrived for some reason. [end recording]

President Garcia Announces Salary Increase

PY0404183790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Garcia] Messrs. journalists: I would like to announce the government's decision to increase workers' salaries all over the country. The current minimum salary is 1,014,000 intis. As of April it will be 1,400,000 intis. This means a 38-percent increase.

Nonunionized workers salaries in the private sector will be increased by 30 percent in April.

We made this decision because the National Statistics Institute and other institutions have reported that the inflation rate reached 32.8 percent in March. We are, therefore, compensating for the March price hikes. The 38-percent increase on the minimum salary will benefit the lower income brackets.

As you know, there are 2 million Peruvian workers who earn the minimum salary. Their salaries have been increased by 38 percent, thus increasing their purchasing power slightly in the face of the 32-percent March inflation rate. [passage omitted]

For reasons you are familiar with, the government has engaged in a conflict with business groups. Yet I am convinced that the next government, with the authority given by voters, will manage—without making a great effort—to immediately reduce inflation. When this happens, inflation will lose its political significance. Thus, inflation will drop to its actual value in the economy and will be far easier to correct without a tremendous shock on the economy. [passage omitted]

IU's Presidential Candidate Pease Interviewed

PY0404150390 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Mar 90 Supplement p 4,5

[Interview with United Left presidential candidate Henry Pease by Manuel Cisneros Milla; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Cisneros] What concrete measures does the United Left [IU] propose to the country in an attempt to contain or overcome inflation?

[Pease] Everyone's proposals seek to contain inflation. If you look at the messages produced by all economy ministers since 1966 you will see that all of them have the same objective. The problem will not be solved by isolated measures but with an overall review of our policies to face the crisis. It is essential to increase production and productivity. We have to understand that the patient is in a very serious condition and that the problem will not be solved by playing with words or by measuring the effect of an economic shock. We only have to look at Argentina for that. We propose a great effort which begins by transforming the logic behind the economic packages of the past 15 years. What have these economic packages accomplished? They have basically sought to reestablish a temporary balance but they have always failed because of the desire to please a small group of large firms without noticing that each package pushed the family economy down even further. When we proposed our program of indexing salaries we were not only defending life, we were not just seeking answers to a narrow objective. We also have a macroeconomic plan to accompany it; a plan that is always at the defense of the consumers market. We also have to assume that if you want to defeat the crisis you cannot bury your head in the sand, you have to establish clear objectives. Our first objective is to reorganize the productive apparatus to increase the production of popular items as much as possible. This proposal affects agriculture, the important part of industry, and those products that have a stable market and are in a position to grow. Indexation is

nothing but a point of departure. You know that indexation does not mean increasing, but simply maintaining prices. Salaries will increase and the market will grow when the economy grows.

[Cisneros] Where does the point of departure takes us?

[Pease] Toward the IU's two goals to overcome the crisis with medium and long-term measures. One of these goals says that this country, this close to the 21th Century, cannot continue to merely be a producer of raw materials. This is not only a problem of copper, agriculture, or fisheries. The problem affects all areas. We will not create job opportunities unless we develop our science and technology and apply it to the productive areas. The second item is that our dollar-hungry industry has to be reorganized and adapted to that part of the market which shows potential for growth. This will place the state in a situation where it will be able to control the general economic guidelines and the short-term policies, beginning, as I have said, from the defense of the family income. As a complement to the austerity program, to eliminate the fiscal deficit, we have to make sure that those who earn more pay their taxes—because no one pays taxes in this country. We have to create the conditions for investments. We have to protect private and public investments in key areas, according to an order of priorities, particularly the areas that create jobs. It is not a matter of reactivating everything at once. We have areas of natural resources that we have to streamlined. There are areas of production for the benefit of the majority in industrial and rural areas that we have to urgently improve. Therefore, the way to get out of the crisis is through discipline and rehabilitation, not through economic shocks with the same logic as previous packages that have always asked us to tighten our belts. This time the patient cannot tighten his belt any more. When you tighten the belt too much the market shrinks in a way that production has to stop and firms go bankrupt. The way out is through a discipline that will affect all, but through a logic that places the defense of production and life first.

[Cisneros] Will the way out of the proposed shock be through the release of prices and indexation?

[Pease] No, because the logic of the shock is the logic of a mud slide. Furthermore, I have not used the word release, because this process has to be performed gradually. I will give you some examples. Large sums of money have been used to subsidize food imports; imports of food we produce. I have just verified that there are 700,000 bags of sugar that cannot be sold, because they were imported with MUC [Single Exchange Market] dollars, because it was subsidized by all of us and it was already subsidized in the countries of origin. Now they say it is cheaper. Of course, how could it not be cheaper if it was subsidized twice? The same thing has been done with rice and corn. We are going to stop import subsidies. However, some subsidies should be granted for imported fertilizer and additives that will help boost agricultural production. Also needed is a large support program for sectors that cannot afford to buy, for extremely poor sectors. This program should also have a market expansion affect and be based on domestic production. All these are factors that, on one hand are defending life and, on the other hand, are raising domestic production.

[Cisneros] As I said before, will it require a great sacrifice or an additional sacrifice from the Peruvian people?

[Pease] It is a sacrifice, but it is smaller than the shock resulting from the implementation of the shock policy, because what we are proposing is based on the principle of defending the minimum that has already been achieved and starting from there. I insist however, that we are not proposing a catastrophe [un huayco]. An orderly change is not a catastrophe. I will give other examples: I have been analyzing the electricity companies and the problem of subsidized public services rates. They deal more with the amount the companies are charged, and the amount of invoices, than with those who use very little electricity. Those who use a lot of electricity have greater problems than those who use the minimum amount, or less. What I want to say is that there are several ways of suspending these subsidies. It can be done in an orderly manner that protects what is essential. If we protect what is essential, we will be protecting the capacity to produce and the capacity to live.

[Cisneros] The shock also proposes social compensation programs that also defend the interests of the lowest strata of society, right?

[Pease] Look, in this country we can say that we are also authors of social compensation programs, but when we propose these programs outside the economic policy, they end up by not being related to their nucleus. Why does this happen? Because nowadays the problem is common to the majority of the people. The middle class now faces problems of survival. Two years ago, when I was in Lima, I found tuberculosis cases in middle-class children living in downtown Lima. Unfortunately, we cannot say: "All right, we will implement social compensation programs for half of the Peruvians." Logically, no party can propose that. The IMF itself has admitted that these programs must exist, but it contradicts itself, because on one hand it wants to continue adopting a blind and liberal logic about social reality and on the other hand, it wants to pay for it. To pay for the blind and liberal logic, however, we would need a lot and we do not have a lot. The problem is in saying that the economic policy can be murderous and that the social compensation programs will create new life. This will never be so. Although we all criticize the mistakes of the current administration and want to do better, when Mr. Salinas appeared on television in September 1988 to announce the economic shock, he also introduced a social compensation program and we could see Minister Cabanillas distributing the bags of potatoes. We wonder, however, how many people had their problems solved with these bags of potatoes. This is not the way to solve the problem. I have no doubt that this task is important, but it does not compensate for an economic shock policy.

[Cisneros] The labor problem is related to everything, especially to the production sector. Underemployment has reached 73.5 percent, which is an extremely alarming level. How do you plan to handle the unemployment problem?

[Pease] If production, and the production sector, do not increase, if we do not invest more in the country, we cannot have more jobs. A few minutes ago, I talked to you about industrial reconversion, about an industry that produces for the majority of the people and thus stabilizes the market. When I speak of short-term programs, I am speaking about programs intended to increase production, not undermine it as done by those programs implemented by package after package, programs we have criticized for causing paralysis. I believe in some of those reactivation programs, not all, but in those which will produce for the majority of the people, in those which will have a market, in those which will require the least use of foreign currency, or those which will be able to export. This is an important factor, a key factor, in national employment policies, both in the public and private sectors.

[Cisneros] How do you intend to achieve this in the private sector while firmly maintaining job stability?

[Pease] Job stability existed during the years of the first stage of the military government but later it became more flexible. Private investments during these years were also higher than during the following years. There is no objective data to prove that job stability prevents investments, however, I am not defending any job stability that would hinder work. I think that labor ethics must be shared, not just by the working class, and that it must be defended. Important progress has been achieved in this area. The experience of labor leaders and the crises themselves have helped us to develop a number of elements which in turn have allowed the labor sector to join the struggle for the defense of production and for national interests, and not the defense of the unproductive people.

Therefore, I can clearly differentiate between the problem of job stability and the problem that stability is sought by those who are not willing to work. Another point: The reconversion issue presupposes considering the stability problem. That is, when reconversion is proposed for an entire technological change that might be required, labor conversion must also take place. This must be very flexible, and to achieve this we are preparing initiatives that can perfectly harmonize the government. [passage omitted]

[Cisneros] One last question: How do you view the state apparatus and what are you going to do with it?

[Pease] We have an ineffective, authoritarian, and bureaucratic state apparatus. Recent governments have destroyed its operational capacity. It is filled with people and it is unable to fulfill many functions. We have to restructure it. First we seek to reduce the national government and to strengthen and expand the regional and local governments. We want to be very clear on one point. We do not want regional governments to be above the national government. We must reduce the number of ministries and national offices. We must end the popular practice in this country of having multilevel structures to deal with the same subject. The administration must be simplified. This starting point will allow many things. First, more rapprochement and better control of the citizens and the institutions. This is first. Second comes what we call state democracy, with the participation of citizens in all institutions and at all levels.

Inflation Rate Tops 2,000 Percent Over 12 Months

PY0504024390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2223 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 2 Apr (EFE)—The National Statistics Institute (INE) reported here today that inflation in Peru exceeded 2,000 percent over the past 12 months. The INE, a government organization, reported today that the cost of living increased by 32.6 percent in March, the highest hike this year, and that the accrued inflation rate for the first quarter of 1990 stood at 124.8 percent.

The INE reported that inflation increased by 2,069 percent from March 1989 to March 1990. The cost of living increase for 1989 was 2,775 percent.